

Some of the Most Common Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest

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The following set of pictures¹ (Fig. 1-18) depicts some of the most common butterflies in the Pacific Northwest. These butterflies are frequently submitted to the Puyallup Plant Clinic. While some of these adult butterflies are familiar to the public, the caterpillars (larvae) are virtually unknown to most people. Even many entomologists have trouble identifying larvae, since so few information sources and images are available to assist in connecting immature forms with the adult forms. In several cases when the association between life stages is certain, the pictures of larvae or pupae are included with the adult image on the fact sheet. Family Nymphalidae is the most abundant in diversity among the butterfly fauna.

Butterflies are related to moths. The most reliable way to distinguish butterflies from moths is to examine their antennae. Butterflies display thread-like antennae that end with a slight knob. Moths, on the other hand, exhibit virtually every other antennal arrangement except that one. A third group of closely related insects are the skippers (Fig. 19). They have butterfly-like antennae, but the knobbed end curves into a slight hook.



**Fig. 1. A tiger swallowtail (family Papilionidae). Several species of these butterflies dwell in our area.
By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 2. A swallowtail pupa.
By A.L. Antonelli.**

¹ Some images are not shown to scale.



**Fig. 3. A swallowtail larva.
By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 4. A painted lady (family
Nymphalidae). By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 5. Painted lady larva on
sunflower. By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 6. Red Admiral (family
Nymphalidae). By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 7. Tortoiseshell
(family Nymphalidae).
By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 8. Angleming (family
Nymphalidae).
By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 9. Checkerspot (family
Nymphalidae).
By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 10. Great spangled fritillary
(family Nymphalidae).
By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 11. A pannassion, a
highland butterfly (family
Papilionidae). By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 12. Mourningcloak butterfly
(family Nymphalidae).
By A.L. Antonelli.**



**Fig. 13. Spiny elm caterpillar, the larva of
the mourningcloak butterfly (family
Nymphalidae). By S.J. Collman.**



Fig. 14. One of the coppers (family Lycaenidae). Some of the species in this family are metallic blue. By R.D. Akre.



Fig. 15. The pine butterfly (family Pieridae).
By K. Grey.

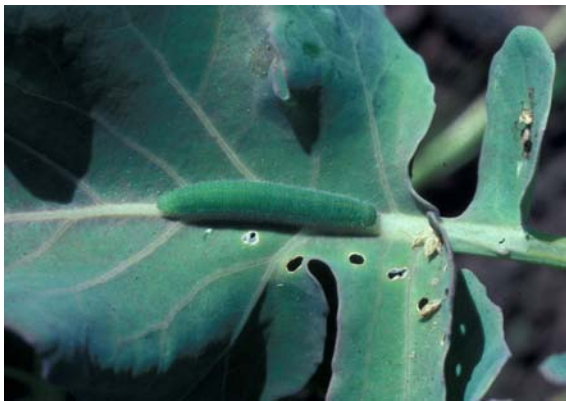


Fig. 16. The imported cabbageworm, a relative of the pine butterfly. By A.L. Antonelli.



Fig. 17. An orange-tip (family Pieridae). By A.L. Antonelli.



Fig. 18. Wood nymph (family Satyridae). By A.L. Antonelli.



Fig. 19. Woodland skipper (family Hesperidae). By K. Grey.