



WILD SPACES

**REALLY
COOL
MOTHS**

**TO LOOK OUT
FOR IN YOUR
WILD SPACE**



When you think of a moth, chances are you think of a dull, brown insect that likes to hide in dark places, like the back of your wardrobe.

Well, this leaflet will hopefully make you think again, because moths are anything but dull!

Just like butterflies, they can be very colourful, with beautiful patterns on their wings. Many moth species also like to fly in the daytime.

The world of moths is so wonderfully varied. Here are six of our favourites just to give you a flavour...

JERSEY TIGER



SIZE: 

WHEN TO SEE: July - August

Zebra-print meets bright orange. Has this moth got the coolest pattern ever? We think so!

The beautiful Jersey Tiger can be seen flying between plants on sunny days.

Caterpillars like to eat: Stinging nettles



ELEPHANT HAWK-MOTH



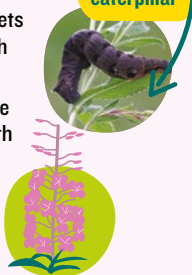
SIZE: 

WHEN TO SEE: May - August

This striking pink-and-gold moth gets its name from its caterpillars, which look like elephants' trunks!

Elephant Hawk-moths fly during the night, so you'll have to set up a moth trap if you want to see it! Find out how to do this on the back page.

Caterpillars like to eat: Rosebay Willowherb



HUMMING-BIRD HAWK-MOTH



SIZE: 

WHEN TO SEE: May - September

Hang on...is that actually a moth? Yes it is!

With its chunky body and lightning-fast wings, this moth could easily be mistaken for a hummingbird when it hovers over nectar plants.

Caterpillars like to eat: Lady's Bedstraw



Moth or butterfly?



Some of the moths in this leaflet could easily be mistaken for butterflies. They are bright, colourful, and fly during the daytime.

This might leave you wondering – what actually is the difference between butterflies and moths? The answer is, not much at all!

The two main differences scientists talk about are:

- Most butterflies have smooth, club-shaped antennae, while most moths have feathery ones.
- Butterflies usually fold their wings vertically above their backs, while most moths hold their wings horizontally when resting.

MINT MOTH



SIZE: 

WHEN TO SEE: April - September

This moth is named after the plant its caterpillars like to eat – mint! On sunny days, you might find one sitting on a mint leaf with its dark purple wings spread out.

Plant some herbs in your Wild Space to attract these little cuties!

Caterpillars like to eat: Mint



MAGPIE



SIZE: 

WHEN TO SEE: June - August

Another moth with a very funky pattern, the Magpie's bold colours help it ward off predators.

Like the Elephant Hawk-moth, the Magpie also flies at night, so you'll have to get out your moth trap again if you want to see it!

Caterpillars like to eat: Currant or Gooseberry bushes



CINNABAR



SIZE: 

WHEN TO SEE: May - August

This moth's bright red markings make it particularly striking and give predators a strong signal that it is poisonous.

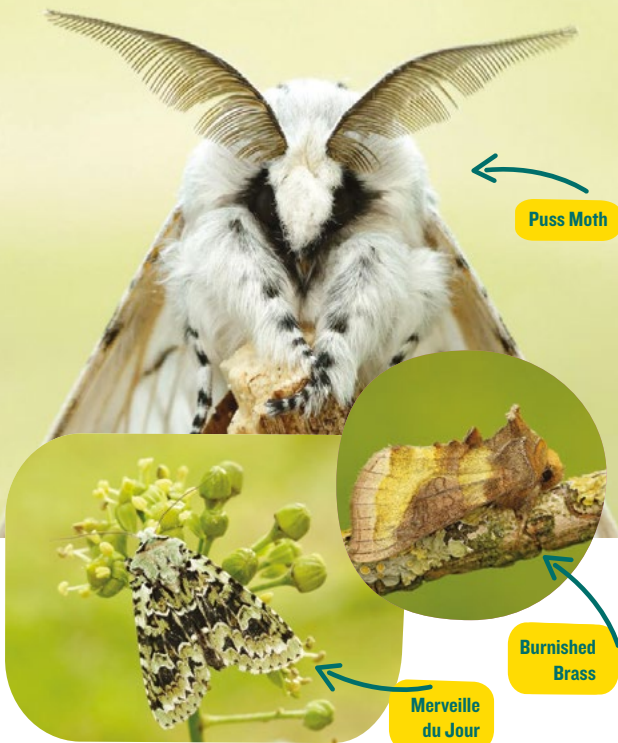
On sunny days, look out for the adults flying between flowers or resting in the long grass.

Caterpillars like to eat: Ragwort



Cinnabar caterpillar





Puss Moth

Merveille du Jour

Burnished Brass

Moth-trapping

Moth traps are a great way to see moths up close, particularly those species that fly during the nighttime.

There are many different types of moth traps, but all use a light to attract moths in before catching them in the main body of the trap. Don't worry – it doesn't hurt them!

You set moth traps up in the evening, and then come back to check them in the morning when the moths are still sleepy.

We recommend the 'NHBS Moth Trap,' which can be found here, along with a helpful video explaining how to set it up: www.nhbs.com/nhbs-moth-trap

Want more moths? Head to www.wild-spaces.co.uk for information about loads more fascinating species.

Here, you will also find tips and guidance for making outdoor spaces more butterfly and moth friendly. Don't forget to register your space!

This resource was made as part of our Bristol and Weston Wild Spaces Project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468). Charity registered in England and Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SC039268).

Visit the main Butterfly Conservation website at: www.butterfly-conservation.org

Image credits

Front cover: Jersey Tiger © Luigi Sebastian

Above: Iain Leach

Moths overleaf: © Sue Davies, Andrew Cooper, Heath McDonald, Pete Withers, Ryszard Szczygiel, Ervin Szombathelyi, Allan Drewitt, Patrick Clement, Ben Sale, Rachel Scopes, Mark Parsons and Ann Collier.

