




The Lepidoptera Family are some of the most beautiful and memorable insects in our local ecosystems. Diverse in their life strategies and appearances, these showy fliers range from fluttering little skippers to night flying moths to large iconic swallowtails.

This pamphlet showcases 12 butterflies that are listed as rare by the Province of British Columbia or are considered to be vulnerable to climate change in the West Kootenay region of the BC Interior.

Butterflies can be imperilled by changes in habitat and climate because they undergo multiple morphological changes from egg to larva (the 'caterpillar') to a flying adult. More specifically, butterflies can be vulnerable if they are small or have limiting life strategies (e.g., one brood per year or limited host plant use). Furthermore, habitat loss and climate change can affect the quality of host plants and the flight times of, and the availability of nectar plants for, adult butterflies. Many butterflies can adapt, but some may not.

You can help!

-  Learn more about butterflies and the native plants they require throughout their lives.
-  Advocate for the protection and conservation of natural areas and volunteer for local ecological restoration projects.
-  Consider planting host and nectar plants in your home or community gardens.



Monarch larva on showy milkweed.

COVER PHOTO:  
Northern Crescent  
on yarrow.



The Kootenay Native Plant Society connects people, plants, and place. Our signature program, Pollination Pathway Climate Adaptation Initiative (2021-2025), is working to enhance habitat for native plants and their pollinators in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia.



Connect with the Kootenay Native Plant Society:



[www.kootenaynativeplants.ca](http://www.kootenaynativeplants.ca)



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# Rare & Climate-Vulnerable Butterflies of the West Kootenay



**Julia Orangetip**  
*Anthocharis julia*

Host Plants:  
Mustard Family



**Silver-spotted Skipper**  
*Epagyreus clarus*

Host Plants:  
Wild licorice



**Boisduval's Blue**  
*Plebejus icaricia*

Host Plants:  
Silky lupine

**Western Pine Elfin**  
*Callophrys eryphon*

Host Plants:  
Pine Family



**Variiegated Fritillary**  
*Euptoieta claudia*

Host Plants:  
Unknown for BC



**Pale Swallowtail**  
*Papilio eurymedon*

Host Plants:  
*Ceanothus* spp.



**Eastern Tailed-Blue**  
*Cupido comyntas*

Host Plants:  
Pea Family



**Edith's Copper**  
*Tharsalea editha*

Host Plants:  
Sorrel

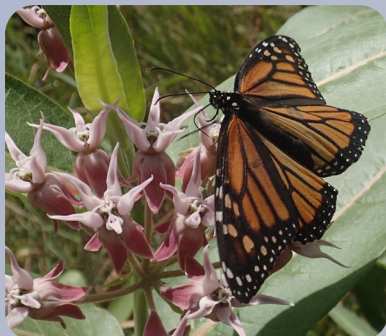


**Common Checkered Skipper**  
*Burnsius communis*

Host Plants:  
Mtn. hollyhock

**Monarch**  
*Danaus plexippus*

Host Plants:  
Showy milkweed



**Pine White**  
*Neophasia menapia*

Host Plants:  
Pine Family



**Great-spangled Fritillary**  
*Argynnis cybele*

Host Plants:  
Violets



**R** = rare

**V** = climate-vulnerable

Photos of monarch adult and larva provided by Valerie Huff.  
All others photos courtesy of Janice Arndt.