Your garden is home to many beautiful moths which have important roles in the garden ecosystem. Some common species include:

- **Elephant Hawk-moth**: May-Aug
- **Humming-bird Hawk-moth**: Apr-Dec
- **Peach Blossom**: May-Sep
- **Canary-shouldered Thorn**: Jul-Oct
- **Pink-barred Sallow**: Aug-Oct
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- **Buff-tip**: May-Jul
- **White Ermine**: May-Oct
- **Swallow Prominent**: Apr-Aug
- **Large Yellow Underwing**: Jun-Nov
- **Mother of Pearl**: Jun-Sep
- **Buff Ermine**: May-Jul
- **Shark**: Jun-Aug
- **Privet Hawk-moth**: Jun-Jul

Further information

There is plenty of help to identify moths, and other information, on the Moths Count website at www.mothscount.org, which also has links to further sources. The books below are good identification guides:


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Moths and gardens

Gardens are important for moths. While most butterflies, birds and other wildlife just visit to look for food, our gardens provide a year-round home for many moths, throughout their life-cycles. Moths are also important for gardens. They are a key part of the garden ecosystem, pollinating flowers and providing food for other garden wildlife like birds, bats, toads and hedgehogs.

You can also increase moth numbers through simple, sensitive gardening practices such as reducing chemical use; having plants rather than concrete, decking or gravel; leaving an area for long grass and wild plants; and not tidying up all dead plant matter at the end of the year (caterpillars and pupae spend the winter here). Even a small garden can easily support over 100 species of moths and butterflies.

Many of the UK’s 2,500 species of moths can be found in gardens. In general, gardens with a greater range of plants and more diverse structure (i.e. shrubs and trees as well as grass and flowers) will support a wider variety of moths. This is because some moth caterpillars only feed on tree leaves, some on grass, and others on herbaceous plants. Native trees like oak and willow are especially good for moths, even if they’re pruned to limit size.

Many of the species illustrated are relatively common and most are widespread in Britain and Ireland. They are not to scale. Flight periods are given for guidance but may vary to the north and south.

For more information about moths, moth recording and the Moths Count project (including free training and activities to take part in) visit www.mothscount.org

Blood-vein

May-Nov

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Many of the UK’s 2,500 species of moths can be found in gardens. In general, gardens with a greater mix of plants and more diverse structure (i.e. shrubs and trees as well as grass and flowers) will support a wider variety of moths. The diversity of plants provides a range of caterpillar food sources, some on grass, some on trees, and these are especially good for moths, even if they are eaten.

You can also increase moth numbers through simple sensitive gardening practices such as reducing chemical use; having plants rather than concrete, decking or gravel; leaving an area for long grass and wild plants; and not tidying up all dead plant matter at the end of the year (caterpillars and pupae spend the winter here). Even a small garden can easily support over 100 species of moth. This leaflet shows only a selection of the moths that could be in your garden, but for the best and most complete list of species visit www.mothscount.org. Many moths, including garden species, are in serious decline. For example, Garden Tiger numbers have decreased by 89% since the late 1960s. Butterfly Conservation has established the Moths Count project and its National Moth Recording Scheme to raise awareness and improve knowledge and conservation of UK moths. You can contribute to this work by passing on your sightings (records) of garden moths. Records from gardens are very important to help build a picture of which moths are faring well and which are in decline.

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Many of the UK’s 2,500 species of moths can be found in gardens. In general, gardens with a greater mix of plants and more diverse structure (i.e. shrubs and trees as well as grass and flowers) will support a wider variety of moths. The key for successful gardening to support moths is to have a range of food plants for all stages of their life cycle, including those which feed on tree leaves, nectar-rich flowers and grasses. In a balanced garden, flowers with mixed types and nectar are especially good for moths, and of course, have an aesthetic role.

You can also increase moth numbers through simple sensitive gardening practices such as reducing chemical use; having plants rather than concrete, decking or gravel; leaving an area for long grass and wild plants; and not tidying up all dead plant matter at the end of the year (caterpillars and pupae spend the winter here). Even a small garden can easily support over 50 species of moths. Even more important, if you or your neighbours garden in a way that helps moths, you will be supporting a larger variety of plants and wildlife, not just moths.

Many of the S2,000 species of moths can be found in gardens, to gardening with a greater role of plants and more diversity, i.e. shrubs as well as grass and flowers, will support a wider variety of moths. The key for successful gardening to support moths is to have a range of food plants for all stages of their life cycle, including those which feed on tree leaves, nectar-rich flowers and grasses. In a balanced garden, flowers with mixed types and nectar are especially good for moths, and of course, have an aesthetic role.

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Many moths, including garden species and various butterflies, for example, Garden Tiger, can be recorded by the public. The Butterfly Conservation has established the Moths Count project and its National Moth Recording Scheme to raise awareness and improve knowledge and conservation of UK moths. You can contribute to this work by keeping an eye on your garden in the summer and autumn and recording observations. By recording what you see from your garden you will be helping to build a picture of which moths are faring well and which are in decline.

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Moths and gardens

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Many of the UK’s 2,500 species of moths can be found gardening, in gardening gardens with a greater mix of plants and more diverse structure (i.e. shrubs as well as grass and flowers) will support a wider variety of moth. The lifecycle of a species, from egg to adult, involves many stages: laying, hatching, feeding, growing, pupating and emerging. Some species have two generations a year, others three, and a few have a single generation. This is because some moth caterpillars only feed on tree leaves, some on grass, and others on herbaceous plants. Native trees like oak and willow are especially good for moths, even if they’re pruned to limit size.

You can also increase moth numbers through simple sensitive gardening practices such as reducing chemical use; having plants rather than concrete, decking or gravel; leaving an area for long grass and wild plants; and not tidying up all dead plant matter at the end of the year (caterpillars and pupae spend the winter here). Even a small garden can easily support over 50 species of moths!

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Blood-vein
May-Nov
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- Early Grey
  Mar-May

- Flame Shoulder
  Apr-Sep

- Chinese Character
  Apr-Sep

- Spectacle
  May-Sep

- Heart & Dart
  May-Sep

- Drinker
  Jul-Aug

- Eyed Hawk-moth
  May-Jul

- Merveille du Jour
  Sep-Oct

- Foxglove Pug
  May-Aug

- Willow Beauty
  Jun-Oct

- Light Emerald
  May-Sep

- Garden Tiger
  Jul-Aug

- Frosted Orange
  Aug-Oct

- Flame
  Apr-Sep

- Mint Moth
  May-Aug

- Swallow-tailed Moth
  Jun-Aug

- Common Footman
  Jul-Aug

- Common Swift
  May-Jul

- Common Rustic
  Jul-Aug

- Dot Moth
  Jun-Aug

- Setaceous Hebrew Character
  May-Oct

- Green Silver-lines
  May-Jul

- Herald
  Mar-Nov

- Dark Arches
  Jun-Nov

- Red Underwing
  Aug-Oct

- Green Carpet
  May-Sep

- Lackey
  Jul-Aug

- Garden Carpet
  Apr-Sep

- Pale Tussock
  May-Jun

- Brimstone Moth
  Apr-Oct

- Snout
  Jun-Oct

- Riband Wave
  Jun-Oct

- Yellow Shell
  Jun-Aug

- Peppered Moth
  May-Aug
Moths and gardens

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Many moths, including garden species and common butterflies, are in serious decline. For example, Garden Tiger numbers have decreased by 89% since the late 1960s. Butterfly Conservation has established the Moths Count project and its National Moth Recording Scheme to raise awareness and improve knowledge and conservation of UK moths. You can contribute to this work by passing on your sightings (records) of garden moths. Records from gardens are very important to help build a picture of which moths are faring well and which are in decline. For more information about moths, moth recording and the Moths Count project (including free training and activities to take part in) visit www.mothscount.org

Blood-vein

May-Nov

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<td>Peppered Moth</td>
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**Elephant Hawk-moth**
- **Humming-bird Hawk-moth**
- **R. Thompson**
- **S. Farrell**

**Further information**
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Moths Count is a partnership of many organisations, individuals and businesses, led by Butterfly Conservation. Principal funders include the Heritage Lottery Fund, Butterfly Conservation, the Entomological Society of London, and the Natural History Trustees of the Zoological Society of London. Further details at: www.mothscount.org

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Text by Susan Anders.
Photographs by Robert Thompson, Roy Leverton, Shane Farrell, Dave Green, Chris Harlow, Ian Kimber, Mike Lawrence, Mark Parsons and Paul Pugh.
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**Garden moths**

Some common species

- Elephant Hawk-moth
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- Humming-bird Hawk-moth
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Some common species:

- Elephant Hawk-moth: May-Aug
- Humming-bird Hawk-moth: Apr-Dec
- Poplar Hawk-moth: May-Sep
- Scalloped Oak: Jul-Aug
- Light-brown Apple Moth: May-Oct
- Oak Hook-tip: May-Sep
- Bright-line Brown-eye: May-Sep
- Magpie: Jun-Aug
- Angle Shades: May-Oct
- Burnished Brass: Jun-Sep
- Peach Blossom: May-Sep
- Canary-shouldered Thorn: Jul-Oct
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