Monthly Tollen August



it: Randy Bjorklunc

Native Plan

Plants for Polli

White-lined Sphinx Moth, Hyles lineata

Description: Large, stout body with brown fur and six white stripes, long, narrow, triangular forewings with shorter hindwings, wingspan of 2.5"-3.5" dark olive brown color with a broad lighter tan band crossed by white strips and a bright reddish pink on the hindwings.

Range: Throughout most of North America, but doesn't survive harsh winters and move up from the south in spring.

Flight: First appear in mid-May, second flight occurs in late August - September.

Foraging Habitat: Primarily nocturnal fliers, attracted to scented white or pale-colored flowers. When flying during the day, brightly colored flowers are preferred.

Blazing Star, Liatris spp.

Description: Tall spikes of bright purple bottlebrushes above tufts of green, grass-like leaves. Flowers grow in clumps, opening from top to bottom, 1'-5' tall.

Bloom Time: August

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Native Habitat: Perrienial prairie plant, prefers medium to moist clay to clay-loam soil.

Status: Three species are listed on the Federal Endangered Species List.

Gun Fact

White-line Sphinx Moth Fun Facts!

Due to their plump bodies in contrast with a relatively small wing surface, they have to beat their wings very fast compared to butterflies, in order to stay aloft, allowing them to hover in mid-air.

White-lined Sphinx Moths can be easily mistaken for hummingbirds in low lighting due to this ability and the way they sip nectar with their long proboscis, or elongated mouth.

^{oto} Credit: Judy Gallag