

Monthly Pollen

May 2022



Native Pollinator



Photo Credit: Marcie O'Connor Prairie Haven Blog

Columbine Duskywing, *Erynnis lucilius*

Description: Mottled dark brown and black with rows of pale spots along hindwing, dark marginal line with a gray fringe. Wingspan of 3 - 4.2 cm

Flight: Two broods, April to June and July to September.

Life Cycle: Females lay single eggs on underside of host plant (Wild Columbine). Caterpillars rest in shelter of leaves and second brood hibernates as fully developed caterpillars in leaf litter at base of host plant.

Foraging Habitat: Caterpillars feed on leaves of host plant and adults feed on flower nectar.

Conservation: Assigned NatureServe global rank of 'G4 Apparently secure globally' but quite rare in parts of its range.

Native Plant



Photo Credit: Cathy Dewitt

Red Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*

Description: Branched herbaceous perennial with height varying from 6 inches to 4 feet tall. Grayish-green three-lobed leaves grow at base of and along flower stems. Bright, 1-2 inch long flowers of 5 yellow and 5 red petals with many dangling yellow stamens. The large tipped flowers are held erect by sturdy stems above the foliage.

Bloom Time: 4 weeks from May-June.

Native Habitat: Moderate shade to full sun in rich, moist soils.

Value: Host plant for Columbine Duskywing butterflies. Critical food source for ruby-throated hummingbirds in spring and visited by bumblebees and hawk moths.

No-Mow May



Photo Credit: Bob Hague

No-Mow May

Emergence: Let your lawn get a bit overgrown this spring! Spring is a critical time for insects emerging from hibernation. Leaving your lawn BEE in spring increases pollinators opportunities for finding pollen and nectar resources. Mow high throughout the summer to protect habitat through the growing season.

No-Mow Alternatives: If you prefer a tidy lawn but still want to help native pollinators, consider planting native flowers or having designated wild growth areas. It helps to mow a tidy edge around natural areas to have a wild area look intentional.