



MORE MOTHS IN YOUR GARDEN

Since moths and their caterpillars feed in different ways, they often rely on different nectar and forage plants as well.



Gardening Tip from
the Palmengarten Exhibition
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OF FLOWERS AND THEIR VISITORS
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The caterpillars of the respective moth species enjoy the following food plants, in particular:

FOOD PLANT	FLOWER COLOR / FLOWERING PERIOD / HEIGHT / POSITION / SOIL	MOTH SPECIES
Lady's bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>)	yellow / VI – IX / 30 – 60 cm / ☀ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils	Hummingbird hawk-moth (<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>)
Common evening-primrose (<i>Oenothera biennis</i>)	yellow / VI – IX / 50 – 120 cm / ☀ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils	Willowherb hawkmoth (<i>Proserpinus proserpina</i>)
Sloe (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	white / III – V / 150 – 400 cm / ☀ / nutrient-rich, calcareous clay soils	Small emperor moth (<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>)
Common sainfoin (<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>)	pink-red / V – VII / 30 – 60 cm / ☀ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils	Eastern burnet (<i>Zygaena carniolica</i>)
Rosebay willowherb (<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>)	purple / VII – VIII / 50 – 150 cm / ☀ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils	Elephant hawk moth (<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>)
Common sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>)	reddish / V – VIII / 30 – 100 cm / ☀ / damp humus soils	Angle shades (<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>)

Most moth species are not too picky about their nectar plants. Since they mostly forage at night, a strong scent or brightly colored flowers help them find their way to nectar:

NECTAR PLANT	FLOWER COLOR / FLOWERING PERIOD / HEIGHT / POSITION / SOIL
White campion (<i>Silene latifolia</i>)	white / VI – IX / 30 – 60 cm / ☀ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils
Dame's rocket (<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>)	violet / V – VII / 40 – 100 cm / ☀ / nutrient-rich, permeable soils
Common soapwort (<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>)	white-pink / VI – IX / 30 – 80 cm / ☀ / permeable soils
Starflower (<i>Borago officinalis</i>)	blue / VI – VIII / 20 – 60 cm / ☀ / permeable soils
Italian woodbine (<i>Lonicera caprifolium</i>)	white-yellow / V – VI / 300 – 500 cm / ☀ / damp, nutrient-rich, permeable soils
Bladder campion (<i>Silene vulgaris</i>)	white / V – IX / 20 – 50 cm / ☀ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils
Black mullein (<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>)	yellow / VI – VIII / 60 – 150 cm / ☀ / calcareous, permeable soils
Red campion (<i>Silene dioica</i>)	red / IV – VI / 30 – 50 cm / ☀ / damp soils