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Plains Lubber Grasshopper

Brachystola magna

Size: L: 1.7 - 2.2 in.

Description: Colorful and flightless, primarily green with short wings, Nebraska's largest grasshopper.

Diet: Forbes

Habitat: Grasslands

Viewing: Summer, west



Two-Striped Grasshopper

Melanoplus bivittatus

Size: L: 1.2 - 2.2 in.

Description: Smooth yellow-brown with two distinct pale-yellow stripes.

Diet: Plants

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer, statewide

Spiders



Goldenrod Crab Spider

Misumena vatia

Size: L: 0.11 - 0.35 in.

Description: Male: darker yellow with red and white bands on abdomen, Female: white to yellow with no markings.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Bold Jumping Spider

Phidippus audax

Size: L: 0.5 - 0.79 in.

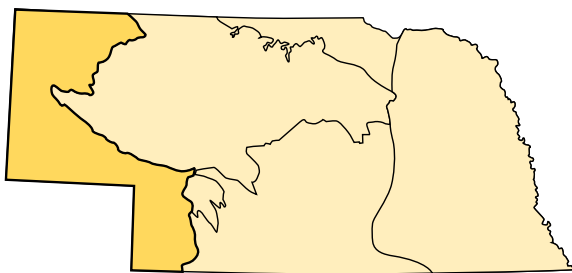
Description: Hairy jumping spider, black with white spots, iridescent mouthparts.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide

Shortgrass Prairie Region



The shortgrass prairie region includes the southwestern corner and Panhandle of Nebraska. This area is made up of short to mixed grass prairie and the Pine Ridge. The shortgrass prairie is the driest and warmest of the Great Plains grasslands.

This region receives an average of 12 - 17 inches of rainfall annually and consists of buffalo grass and blue grama. The Pine Ridge is found in northwestern Nebraska and is dominated by ponderosa pine. More than 300 species of migratory and resident birds can be found in the shortgrass prairie region, as well as a variety of mammals, plants, reptiles, insects and other species.



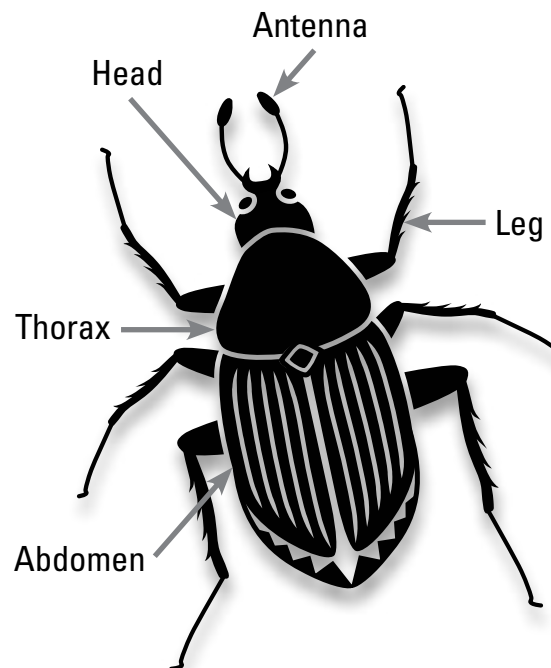
Insect Viewing Tips

1. **Go to where the habitat is** — visit state parks and other public spaces.
2. **Do your homework** — learn what species live in the area.
3. **Think about timing** — check what is active in the area this time of year.
4. **Consult an expert** — join in on a guided insect hike to learn more.
5. **Leave no trace** — leave wildlife in nature and nature the way you found it.



Insects of the Nebraska Shortgrass Prairie

Basic Insect Anatomy



Identification Guide

NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

OutdoorNebraska.org



Monarch

Danaus plexippus

Size: WS: 3.3 - 4.8 in.

Description: Orange butterfly with black body, veins and borders with white spots, Male: has black spot at center of each lower wing.

Diet: Milkweed (larva), nectar (adult)

Habitat: Open fields, rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



Orange Sulphur

Colias eurytheme

Size: WS: 1.4 - 2.45 in.

Description: Male: upperside yellow, dark border and cell spot, Female: yellow-white, dark border, underside hind wing has gray spot with 2 rings and a spot above.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Open fields

Viewing: Summer-fall, statewide



Blue-eyed Darner

Rhionaeschna multicolor

Size: L: 2.42 - 2.73 in.

Description: Male: Blue and black abdomen and blue eyes, Female: yellow-green where male is blue.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Ponds and lakes near open fields

Viewing: Summer, statewide, more common west



*Velvet Ant

Dasymutilla occidentalis

Size: L: 0.5 - 1.0 in.

Description: Wasp with hairy black and red body, Male: dark wings, Female: wingless with stinger.

Diet: Other larva (larva), nectar (adult)

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Cabbage White Butterfly

Pieris rapae

Size: WS: 1.75 - 2.25 in.

Description: White to pale yellow-green wings with black tipped forewing and 1 dark wing spot for males and 2 for females.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



Common Wood-nymph

Cercyonis pegala

Size: WS: 1.75 - 3.0 in.

Description: Variable - brown wings, upper forewing has 2 large yellow eyespots.

Diet: Rotting fruit, nectar

Habitat: Open fields

Viewing: Summer-fall, statewide



Halloween Pennant

Celithemis eponina

Size: L: 1.4 - 1.7 in.

Description: Dragonfly with orange wings with brown bands and red spots on front edge of wing.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Marshes, ponds, lakes

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Splendid Tiger Beetle

Cicindela splendida

Size: L: 0.47 - 0.59 in.

Description: Iridescent green-blue head, red-orange body with white markings.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Clay banks, bluffs and road banks

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide except northeast



Painted Lady

Vanessa cadui

Size: WS: 2.0 - 2.87 in.

Description: Upperside orange-brown, upper forewing black with white, hind wing with row of black spots. Underside patterned brown-gray.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer, statewide



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Isabella Tiger Moth

Pyrrharctia isabella

Size: WS: 1.75 - 2.25 in.

Description: Forewings orange-yellow-tan with broken black spot, Female: has orange-pink hind wing.

Diet: Herbaceous plants (larva)

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



*Western Bumblebee

Bombus occidentalis

Size: L: 0.4 - 0.9 in.

Description: Yellow and black bumblebee with distinct white tail.

Diet: Nectar and pollen

Habitat: Fields - agriculture and wild

Viewing: Summer, Panhandle



Ten-lined June Beetle

Polyphylla decemlineata

Size: L: 0.75 - 1.5 in.

Description: Brown body with vertical white stripes and clubbed antenna, larva can be agricultural pest.

Diet: Roots (larva), foliage (adult)

Habitat: Associated with sandy soil and trees, especially apple

Viewing: Mid-late summer, west



Clouded Sulphur

Colias philodice

Size: WS: 1.5 - 2.75 in.

Description: Male: Yellow-green with dark edging on wings, white eyespot on underwing, Female: yellow-white, less bold edging.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Open fields

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Familiar Bluet

Enallagma civile

Size: L: 1.3 - 1.7 in.

Description: Bright blue damselfly with slender abdomen.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Near still or slow moving water

Viewing: Summer-fall, statewide



*Brown-belted Bumblebee

Bombus griseocollis

Size: L: 0.37 - 0.75 in.

Description: Bumblebee with black head and wings and brown belt band on thorax.

Diet: Nectar and pollen

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-summer, statewide



Rainbow Scarab Beetle

Phanaeus vindex

Size: L: 0.29 - 0.5 in.

Description: Bulky oval beetle, metallic in appearance, copper, gold and green; male has horn.

Diet: Dung

Habitat: Grasslands

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide