



Guide to insects on your hike

With more than 1.4 billion insects for each human on the planet, these colorful, diverse creatures feed us, clean up waste and help generate \$57 billion for the U.S. economy yearly.



Goldsmith beetle

A member of the Scarab family, this beetle hibernates in winter. They live in, and around forests.



Praying mantis

Mantids can turn their heads 180 degrees to scan for prey. Their coloring provides camouflage. They eat many garden pests.



Red-spotted purple butterfly

Seen feeding on tree sap or manure. Its larvae feed on wild black cherry, and the caterpillars overwinter.



Katydid

There are over 6,000 members of this nocturnal insect group. Their repetitive song of "katy-did, katy-didn't" is common on a summer night.



White-marked tussock moth

Some host trees are basswood, maple, walnut, willow and oak. Can cause heavy single season defoliation.



Red milkweed beetle

Toxins from milkweed make them distasteful to predators. Latin name means "four eyes" because their antennae split their eye.



Six-spotted tiger beetle

The only tiger beetle that is shade tolerant. A predator often seen along forest paths, where it hunts other small insects.



Walking stick

Over 3,000 species worldwide. Using their "stick" camouflage, they eat mostly tree leaves. They are food for birds and small mammals.



Black swallowtail caterpillar

Young caterpillars are black with white "saddles." When startled, full-size larvae show orange, horn-like organs on their heads.



Hummingbird clearwing moth

Often mistaken for hummingbirds, these moths have clear wings that help them hover over flowers to sip nectar.