

Brimstone

Gonepteryx rhamni



What to look for

Male – lemon-yellow wings – the origin of the word 'butter'fly.

Female – pale green wings.

Both – small orange spot on each wing.



Where found

Light woodland, bushy areas.

Larvae feed on buckthorn.

Found throughout the British Isles, except Scotland.

When to look

February – September.

Often first butterfly to appear after winter.

Hibernating specimens reappear in early spring, from February.

Another view...

Underwings of the brimstone butterfly.



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Attracting brimstone butterflies

The following plants may attract brimstone butterflies:

- ✓ Buckthorn
- ✓ Alder buckthorn

Did you know?

The brimstone has a wingspan of approximately 6cm.

It is well camouflaged, with wings that resemble leaves.

Female brimstones are lighter in colour than the males and often look white when flying.

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