

Holly blue

Celastrina argiolus

What to look for

Shining, sky blue upperside wings with fine borders.

The female has heavy dark borders to its forewings.



Where found

Bushy, wooded habitat, often in woodland clearings and margins where its larvae feed on many plants, eg holly, bramble, gorse and ivy.

Common in Southern England, Wales and parts of Northern Ireland.

When to look

Late April - June

Another view...

Underwings of the holly blue butterfly.



Female holly blue butterfly



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Attracting holly blue butterflies

The following plants may attract holly blue butterflies:

- ✓ Holly
- ✓ Ivy
- ✓ Spindle
- ✓ Dogwood
- ✓ Snowberry
- ✓ Gorse
- ✓ Bramble

Did you know?

The holly blue flies high around the top of bushes and trees.

It can often be seen in gardens near to holly in spring and ivy in summer.

Caterpillars are usually green but some are camouflaged with pink stripes.

Adults drink oozing sap, aphid honeydew and carrion juices.

Early entomologists thought that male and female holly blue butterflies were of different species. Common names for the male included 'wood blue' or 'azure blue' and females were known as 'blue spekt butterfly with black tips'

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