

Insects and Spiders

White Admiral



Found throughout Alberta this big, beautiful butterfly is one to look for towards the end of June.

A large butterfly easy to identify because of the bold black and white pattern, but look closer and you'll see blues and reds too.

Caddisfly



There may 200 species of caddisfly in Alberta. They lay their eggs in water and can be found around most aquatic habitats.

Caddisfly larvae develop underwater and many build cases out of sand grains, sticks, vegetation or other debris as a home and for protection.

Dragonfly Nymph



The immature stage of a dragonfly, the nymph may live for years underwater before emerging as an adult.

These nymphs breath via gills located inside the end of their abdomens. They have lightning fast extendable jaw parts and are well camouflaged.

Meadowhawk (Female)



Cherry-faced Meadowhawks are medium-sized dragonflies. Males are red and females are gold or yellow.

These dragonflies will often fly near the ground and perch in low vegetation.

Goldenrod Crab Spider



This spider can change colour from yellow to white. It hides in flowers to ambush its prey.

These spiders may hide in a variety of flowers not just goldenrods. They are harmless to people.

Lady Beetle



Lady beetles are a favourite of many people. Beneficial in our gardens too, as aphids are a favourite food for them.

They are beetles, not bugs and the many different species can be identified by the patterns of spots and bands on their elytra or wing covers.

Clouded Sulphur



One of 12 species of "Sulphurs" in Alberta. Note the 3 pale spots in a row on the underside of the wing.

These are butterflies of sunny open fields and meadows. They may be the last butterflies we see late into the fall.

Willow Galls



Galls are created by insects on many plants. Usually a place where eggs are laid and larvae develop.

The red gall on the leaf is created by an insect called a sawfly, the pineapple-shaped gall is created by a midge.

Wolf Spider



Wolf spiders are common across Alberta and there are at least 40 species in the group.

Wolf spiders are active hunters not spinning webs. Females use silk to create egg sacs that they carry with them, like the one pictured here.