

# COMMON BUCKEYE

*(Junonia coenia)*

# Bug of the Month



**The common buckeye butterfly is found across all parts of the United States, except the northwest.** They cannot live in freezing temperatures. In the spring, they move northward, while in the fall the populations swell as they begin a southward migration. Buckeyes prefer open sunny locations like fields,

grasslands, and shorelines. Males are notoriously territorial and will patrol areas seeking out mates and intruders.

Caterpillars feed on a range of host plants including snapdragon, gerardia, false foxglove, plantains, and ruellia. Many of these host plants contain

toxic chemicals that caterpillars sequester to protect themselves from predators. Adult butterflies nectar on various plants such as zinnia, hydrangea, and butterfly bush. Buckeyes will also collect fluids from mud and damp sand.

*By Rachel McLaughlin*



PennState



Center for  
Pollinator  
Research

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. U.Ed SCI 19-93