

### The Large White *Pieris brassicae* and Small White *Pieris rapae*



Small White - female

These two white butterflies both go by the name 'Cabbage White', as their caterpillars feed on plants in the cabbage family. Fortunately, there is an easy-to-grow garden flower that they both love – Nasturtium. In fact, nasturtiums are sometimes grown as a 'trap crop' on allotments to attract the butterflies and their eggs away from the brassica crop. It is an easy-to-grow annual which can be grown from seed from April to July or found in any garden centre.

Both species have two and usually a partial third generation. They are on the wing in April and May, then again in late July and August with some emerging in late September. They will also migrate and there are occasional influxes from the continent. There is also some overlap in generations, so in combination with migratory butterflies it is possible to see one at any time in spring and summer.

The Large White lays its bright yellow eggs in batches, and its yellow and black caterpillars are gregarious - that is they live together - and they can munch their way through a lot of leaves, so grow as many Nasturtiums as you can.

The Small White lays its pale lemon eggs singly. The caterpillar is green, with a yellow stripe appearing as it grows bigger.



Nasturtium



Large White - male

Large White - female