

Karner Blue Butterfly

Lycaeides melissa

-The Karner Blue Butterfly is a small Federally Endangered butterfly. The males upper surface is a deep violet-blue fringed with white. The females upper surface is a dusky brownish-blue with orange spots on the edge of the hindwing. The Karner Blue is found in scattered localities from Minnesota to New Hampshire. Although never officially documented in Langlade County, I have seen this butterfly in my hometown of Summit Lake.



Wingspan: 1 inch

Caterpillar hosts: The female lays her eggs only on Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perrennis*), therefore if you want Karner Blues on your property, you need this plant. Without Wild Lupine, the Karner Blue would not survive.

Adult hosts: The adult Karner Blue will feed on Cup-Plant, Wild Bergamot, Oswego-Tea, Compass Plant, White Turtlehead, Red Turtlehead, New England Aster, Pale Purple Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Swamp Milkweed, Blazingstars, and Ironweed.

We need this butterfly! We will lose a lot if we allow it to go extinct! Please plant a lot of Wild Lupine so your grandkids can appreciate it too. It is one of the easiest things that we can do to help Mother Nature.