

# Northern Blue

*Lycaeides idas*

-The Northern Blue is a geographically variable butterfly. The upper-side of the male is an iridescent blue, while the female is brown with orange sub-marginal spots. The hind-wing has a thin black line along the outer margin that is broken into small dots at the vein ends. The Northern Blue can only be positively identified by dissection of the male genitalia and by locality.

-Male Northern Blues patrol near host plant for females. Females lay the eggs singly on stems of host plants or in the debris beneath.



Wingspan:  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches

Caterpillar hosts: In the eastern part of its range, the Northern Blue caterpillars eat of members of the Ericacea Family, such as Labrador Tea, Bog Rosemary, and Leatherleaf.

Adult foods: Adult Northern Blues feed on the nectar of flowers of Ironweed, Yarrow, Dogbane, and Boneset.