

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: Wingspan of 2 inches

Color: Wings are white on top and yellowish-green below with black markings on the tips

General: Females have two black spots on their wings, males have one

Usually Found: Open fields, roadsides, parks, cities, gardens



Did You Know?

- Cabbage whites (*Pieris rapae*) are one of the first butterflies to be seen in the spring and one of the last butterflies seen in the fall.
- In the 19th Century, they were introduced to North America from Europe.
- They are considered a pest to many people with gardens, because they feed on cabbage, broccoli, and other vegetables.
- Cabbage whites begin their lives as caterpillars, but hibernate over the winter as chrysalids. By the time spring comes, they emerge from the chrysalis as an adult butterfly.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first appearance of the adult butterfly in spring
- The last time the butterfly is seen in autumn

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this insect is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

(www.usanpn.org)