

# British Nature Guide

## Plants that attract butterflies – Stinging Nettles

### Stinging Nettles



Most people think of Nettles as being weeds and pull them up, but many species of butterflies depend on them for their survival.

One butterfly you might see is the Small Tortoiseshell. These butterflies lay their eggs on Nettles. The caterpillars stay on the Nettles protected from predators by the stinging plant.



Three other butterflies that also lay their eggs on Nettles are the Red Admiral, the Comma and the Peacock. Watch a Nettle patch on a sunny day in summer and you will be sure to see one or more of these beautiful butterflies visiting.



Take care if you are looking for butterflies or caterpillars on Nettles.

Nettles can give a nasty sting. The leaves and stems are covered in tiny sharp spikes, each loaded with poison.