

Hilary

by hilary, 17-Dec-11 07:23 AM GMT

The plan is to combine the large veg garden with wildlife (specially butterflies and moths) and still get some profit from the veg and cut flowers. Also a small field rented to farmer for grazing and haylage.

Butterflies presently visiting:

BRIMSTONE..... Planted Buckthorn in 3 sunny spots in march 2011

BROWN ARGUS (only the odd one from 2010)....Have Doves foot Cranesbill (an annual I think) as a weed but find it hard to maintain – lack of weeding gets it swamped, hoeing is too indiscriminate and handweeding very time consuming. Have some seedling Rock Rose which I have to find a home for.

BROWN HAIRSTREAK (only the odd one from 2010) Have found 3 eggs on suckering blackthorn in field most of the rest is probably too exposed. have cut back some large shrubs in a more sheltered spot to give suckering blackthorn more sun.

CABBAGE WHITE & SMALLWHITE Despite not spraying or removing eggs from P/Sp Broccoli found no sign of large white damage – hope I do not have to start worrying about them!

COMMA Have nettles and various untended currants but have never spotted a caterpillar COMMON BLUE (odd few since 2009) want to find a spot to introduce Birdsfoot Trefoil where it won't get swamped

GATEKEEPER, MEADOW BROWN, RINGLET, LARGE AND SMALL SKIPPERS, SPECKLED WOOD All except Gatekeeper and Sp.Wood in low numbers (one at a time) have started to put strips and patches of Cocksfoot, Wood False Broom, and Yorkshire Fog in sunny spots in veg garden, not sure about controlling it!

GREEN VEINED WHITE & ORANGE TIP. Plenty of garlic mustard, Hedge mustard and Honesty about. trying to get a bit of Lady's smock going in the lawn.

HOLLY BLUE have got Holly and Ivy

PEACOCK never seen the caterpillars here. TORTOISESHELL plenty of nettles but caterpillars never matured last year.

SMALL COPPER (very few) have tried to introduce sorrel into various areas this summer.

WALL – I think this was about in the 70s – have never seen it since so I don't suppose it will come back

Moths – A project for next year is to find out what is here. so far all I know for sure: Ruby Tiger, Scarlet Tiger, Small Magpie, SilverY, lots of unidentified caterpillars. It will be much harder to learn moths!

Have in greenhouse Large and ordinary birdsfoot trefoil, Fleabane, Scabious, Rockrose and Knapweed but am finding it hard to risk planting it out in case I lose it – like most of the sorrel and yarrow i planted this year – I'll wait till they're bigger. So till next spring...

Re: Hilary

by ChrisC, 18-Dec-11 04:31 AM GMT

sounds good Hilary. on currant i have found the caterpillars on the underside of the leaves. I couldn't tell you if this is normal as my only experience is 2 caterpillars in my own garden which disappeared shortly after finding them. i've also had large white on honesty as well as orange tip. I seem to recall Susie mentioning that the caterpillars of orange tip on honesty don't make it but i'd await a 2nd opinion on that too as my memory isn't all that at the best of times 😊

with regards to identifying moths and caterpillars there are some knowledgeable folk on here that may be able to help if you have pics.

i wish you the very best of luck with your endeavour.

Chris