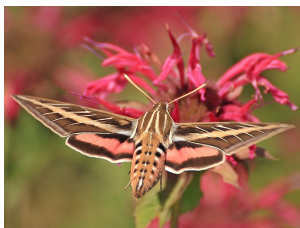




# SPHINX MOTH



Other common names: Hawk or hummingbird moth

Scientific family: *Sphingidae*

**Description:** Sphinx moths have long, pointed abdomens and plump bodies that are covered with long hairs. Their wingspan can range between 1.25" and 6" and their wings come in a wide variety of shapes and colors. They have a very long proboscis or "tongue" that they use to drink nectar. Sphinx moth caterpillars are often called hornworms, because they usually have a set of pointed "horns" on their rear end.



## FUN FACTS



It is estimated that there are over 1,200 species of Sphinx moth with only 125 living in North America.



The name "Sphinx" comes from the caterpillar's tendency to lift its head up when alarmed, resembling an Egyptian sphinx.



Like hummingbirds, sphinx moths are known for hovering over flowers and also have a tail that opens like a fan while they are collecting nectar. Some species can even move sideways or stop in midair.



Known for their hawk-like speed, sphinx moths can fly up to 30mph and are some of the fastest flying insects in the world.



Sphinx moths have the longest proboscis of any moth or butterfly. They can uncoil up to a length of 11 inches!

## FAVORITE PLANTS & COLORS

Sphinx moths pollinate at night and are attracted to white and pale-colored flowers, which glow when illuminated by the moon. They prefer nectar-rich, fragrant, and tube-shaped flowers such as:

bouncing bet, brugmansia, columbine, datura, evening primrose, four-o'clocks, honeysuckle, hosta, moonflower vine, nasturtium, night-blooming jasmine, jimson weed, larkspurs, petunia

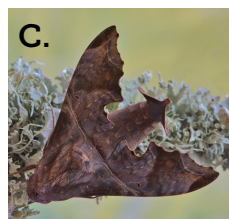
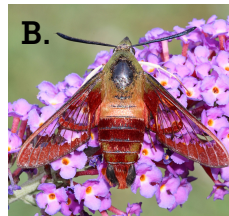
Each sphinx moth species has a specialized list of host plants and are often named after them (i.e. walnut sphinx moth). Other common plants eaten by sphinx caterpillars include:

apple, elm, grape, fuchsia, honeysuckle, poplar, purslane, tomato, snowberry, virginia creeper, willowweed, wild cherry

## HABITAT

Depending on the species, sphinx moths can be found in a diverse range of habitats across North America including woodlands, deserts, meadows, and marshes. The most important factor they look for are host plants to lay their eggs on.

### MATCH THE MOTHS



Match the name of each sphinx moth species based on their appearance.

- \_\_\_ Clearwing
- \_\_\_ Wooden
- \_\_\_ Mournful

Check your answers on the coloring page!



## HELP SPHINX MOTHS THRIVE

- Grow plants the moths like to feed or lay their eggs on.
- Cultivate a "moon garden" with flowers that bloom at night.
- Moths are attracted to light. To avoid distracting them from pollinating, turn off outside lights (especially those near flowers) at night time.
- Avoid using chemical sprays and pesticides in your garden.



# SPHINX MOTH

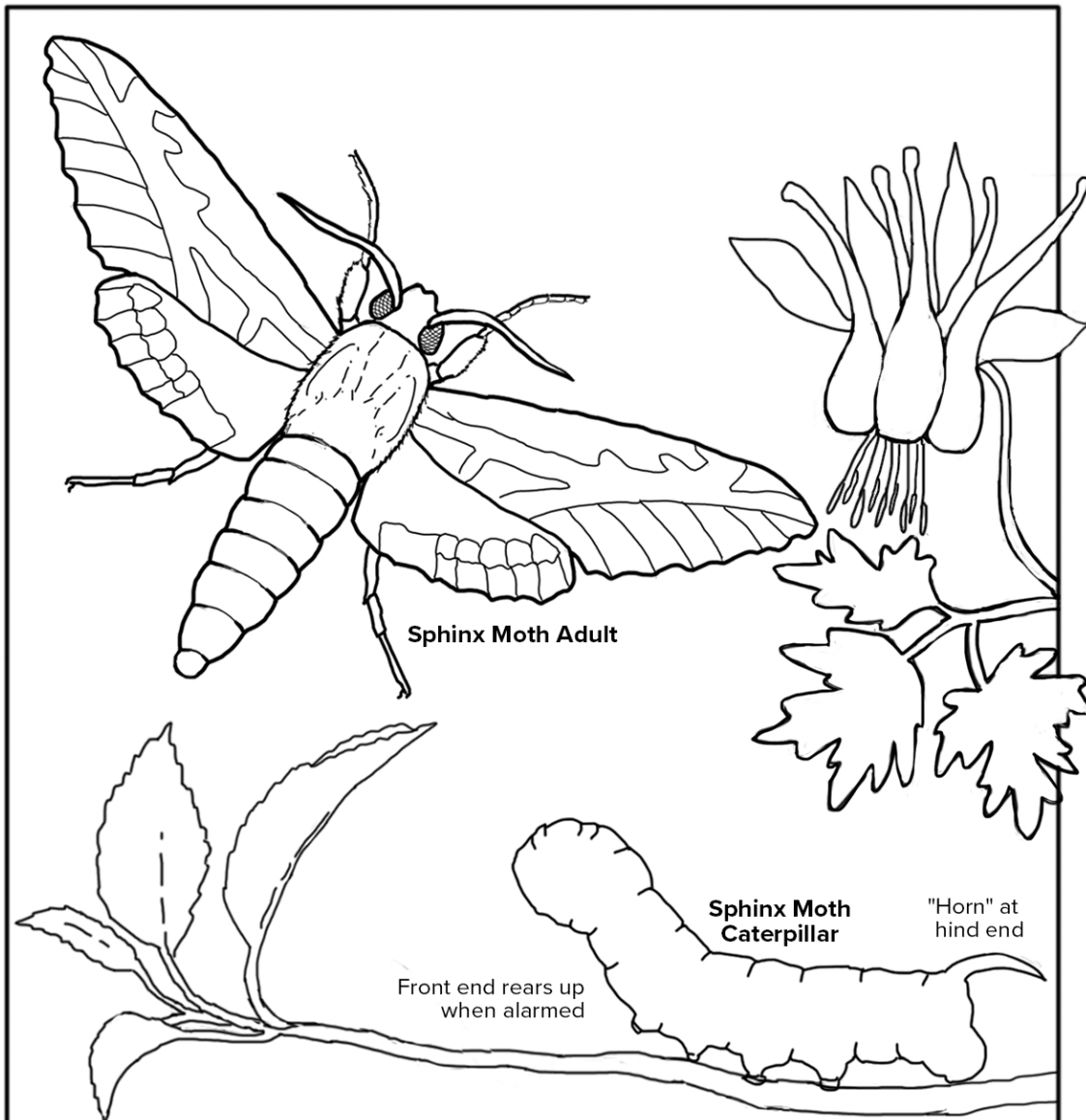


Butterfly

Differences Between Butterflies and Moths (in general; there are many exceptions!)		
Characteristic	Butterfly	Moth
When most active	Daytime	Evening/night
Wing position at rest	Upright over back	Spread out
Antennae	Thin, club-shaped tips	Feathery
Body	Slender, smooth	Stout, fuzzy



Moth



MATCH THE MOTHS answer key: A. Wooden B. Clearwing C. Mourning

