

Summer Azure

Summer Azures occur throughout Alabama. These common butterflies are multi-brooded; they are most common from late spring until fall, although there is sometimes an early spring flight that coincides with that of Spring Azure. When this occurs, the two species do not typically fly in the same sites. For many years, Summer and Spring Azures were considered to be one species and record keeping reflects this. Habitat is varied because Summer Azures use many different host plants. They fly high but also congregate in puddle clubs. Both sexes nectar from a variety of small flowers, including those of trees and shrubs.



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- Ventrally, sexes are similar. Male dorsal wings are blue with thin dark borders on forewings. Female dorsal wings are paler and have wide dark borders. There is a row of dark spots on the hindwings. Females are slightly larger.
- May be confused with Spring Azures, Appalachian Azures, Eastern Tailed-Blues and Silvery Blues. Summer Azures tend to be lighter and more delicately marked than Spring Azures. There is no purplish hue. Hindwing spots are small and are not ringed in white. There are no orange markings or tails. Summer Azures tend to be larger than Spring Azures but not as large as Appalachian Azures. These size differences may be difficult to discern in the field.





Summer Azure

Dorsal Male

Thin, dark border

Blue

Hindwing fringe not checkered

Summer Azure *Celastrina neglecta*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic markers*

Wingspan: 1¼ - 1¾ inches (2.4 - 2.9 cm)



Summer Azure

Dorsal Female

Heavy, dark border

Pale blue; white scaling on
forewings and hindwings

Submarginal spots

Hindwing fringe not checkered

Summer Azure *Celastrina neglecta*

© Vitaly Charny

*Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: 1¼ - 1¾ inches (2.4 - 2.9 cm)



Summer Azure

Ventral View

Pale gray or whitish

Small black markings and a dark zigzagged line

Hindwing fringe not checkered

Summer Azure *Celastrina neglecta*

© Sara Bright

*Reliable diagnostic marker

Wingspan: 1¼ - 1¾ inches (2.4 - 2.9 cm)

Male Dorsal Similar Species

Summer Azure



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Spring Azure



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Eastern Tailed-Blue



Vitaly Charny

Appalachian Azure



© Jeff Pippen

Silvery Blue



© Vitaly Charny

Female Dorsal Similar Species

Summer Azure



© Vitaly Charny

Spring Azure



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Eastern-Tailed Blue Spring Form



© Vitaly Charny

Appalachian Azure



© Sara Bright

Silvery Blue



© Jason Love

Ventral Similar Species

Summer Azure



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Spring Azure



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Eastern Tailed-Blue



© Lewis Scharf

Appalachian Azure



© Sara Bright

Silvery Blue



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