

Mourning Cloak

Mourning Cloaks typically occur in the upper two-thirds of the state. They are probably single-brooded: adults overwinter and worn individuals are often encountered in very early spring when they begin to engage in mating behavior. Mourning Cloaks are hilltoppers; males often perch on the ground to wait for females. Fresh adults are seen in early summer. They spend most of the summer aestivating and fly again in fall before overwintering. Mourning Cloaks rarely nectar from flowers.



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- Sexes are very similar in appearance. Females are slightly larger.
- Mourning Cloaks sometimes engage in southward movements in the fall. This is the time that they are most likely to be found in southern counties.
- Not likely to be confused with any other species.





Mourning Cloak

Dorsal View

Velvety maroon ground color

*Forewing and hindwing row of iridescent purple/blue spots

Short projection

*Forewing and hindwing bright yellow border

Short projection

Mourning Cloak *Nymphalis antiopa*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

Wingspan: 2¼-4 inches (5.7-10.1 cm)



Mourning Cloak

Ventral View

Short projection

*Forewing and hindwing bright yellow border

Short projection

*Looks like very dark crepe paper

Mourning Cloak *Nymphalis Antiopa*

© Sara Bright

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

Wingspan: 2¼-4 inches (5.7-10.1 cm)



Mourning Cloak

Dorsal View
Overwintering Appearance

- Short projection
- *Forewing and hindwing row of purple/blue iridescent spots
- *Forewing and hindwing border: paler than in summer
- Short projection

Mourning Cloak *Nymphalis antiopa*

© Dolan Trout

* *Reliable diagnostic marker*

Wingspan: 2¼-4 inches (5.7-10.1 cm)



Mourning Cloak

Ventral View
Overwintering appearance

Short projection

*Forewing and hindwing border:
paler than in summer

*Looks like very dark crepe paper

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