

Golden Sun Moth

Synemon plana

Status

Critically endangered. The sun moth is known to occur at 45 sites across Victoria, most less than five hectares.



Description

Golden Sun Moths are identifiable by their unique colour pattern, with bronzy-brownish shiny forewings with white-grey patches, and clubbed antennae. They are only active during the day and have no functional mouthpiece meaning they cannot feed.

The best time to spot Golden Sun Moths is during November and early December.

Habitat

Suitable habitat for the Golden Sun Moth includes native grasslands and open grassy woodlands where Wallaby Grass is prevalent.

Adult males will not fly more than 100 metres away from suitable habitat. Populations separated by more than 200 metres from their habitat can become isolated and the site is unlikely to be re-occupied.

Threats

Just a fraction of the native grasses which existed during European settlement remain today. The Sun Moth has a dependence on its host plant, Wallaby Grass, making the survival of this native grassland vital to its survival.

Actions contributing to the loss of its habitat include intensive farm grazing, the introduction of exotic species and land development.

What can you do?

Allow native grasses to grow.

Resting native grass areas from grazing during spring allows the grasses to grow and set seed, which is ideal for maintaining Golden Sun Moth habitat.

Controlling weeds within native grasslands is also important to ensure they do not hinder Wallaby Grass.