



























**North Carolina
Native Plant Society**
ncwildflower.org

Native Host Plants for Butterfly Gardens

Butterfly host plants are specific plants that caterpillars rely on as a food source during their larval stage. Unlike nectar plants, which provide food for adult butterflies, host plants serve as the site where butterflies lay their eggs and where the emerging caterpillars feed exclusively. Each butterfly species typically has a limited range of host plants, as caterpillars have evolved to digest only certain types of leaves. Providing host plants in a garden helps support butterfly populations by ensuring their life cycle can continue successfully.

Name	Butterfly	Caterpillar	Host Plant	Host Plant Name	Planting Needs
Zebra Swallowtail <i>Eurytides marcellus</i>				Common Pawpaw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	Part sun, moist soil
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Pterourus glaucus</i>				Wild Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	Sun, average moisture
Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>				Asters (<i>Symphyotrichum</i>) <i>S. oblongifolium</i> , <i>S. cordifolium</i>	Sun, part sun, average soil
Gulf Fritillary <i>Dione incarnata</i>				Passionflower <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> , <i>P. lutea</i>	Sun to part shade, average to moist soil
Silvery Checkerspot <i>Chlosyne nycteis</i>				Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Sun, average to dry soil
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>				Eastern Butterfly Milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Sun to part sun, dry/moist soil
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>				Golden Alexander <i>Zizia aurea</i>	Sun to part sun, moist soil
American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>				Plantain Pussytoes <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Sun to part shade, dry, rocky soil

Name	Butterfly	Caterpillar	Host Plant	Host Plant Name	Planting Needs
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>				Pipevine <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>	Part shade, moist soil
Spring azure <i>Celastrina ladon</i>				Flowering Dogwood <i>Benthamia florida</i> [= <i>Cornus florida</i>]	Full sun to part shade, well drained soil
Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Pterourus troilus</i>				Northern Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Part sun to shade, moist soil
Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>				Carolina Wild-petunia <i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	Sun/part shade, wet to dry soil
Eastern Tailed-blue <i>Cupido comyntas</i>				Panicled tick-trefoil <i>Desmodium paniculatum</i>	Part sun, dry soil
Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>				Black Locust <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> and other legumes	Mostly sun, average soil
American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>				Northern Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> and other <i>Celtis</i> spp.	Sun/part shade, average soil
Variegated Fritillary <i>Euptoietia claudia</i>				Violets <i>Viola</i> spp.	Part sun, average soil

Create a native garden in your yard, and help sustain our native plant and pollinator populations.