

## Butterfly Plants

This list was compiled from three sources:

Butterflies of Michigan, by Jaret C. Daniels

Michigan Butterflies & Skippers: A Field Guide and Reference, by Mogens C. Nielsen MSU Extension

Learn about Butterflies in the Garden, by Brenda Dziedzic

This list was reviewed and revised by Brenda Dziedzic, author of Learn about Butterflies in the Garden

Butterflies and skippers require both a host plant for the larvae to feed on and a place for adults to nectar.

While these insects do not have a great deal of host specificity with respect to nectaring sources, they generally do with respect to larval host plants. Sometimes the larval host plant is limited to one specific species. For example, the Karner Blue requires lupine as it's larval host. Other butterflies like the Monarch can rear it's young on all the native milkweed (*Asclepias*) species found in Michigan. Other butterfly species like the Summer Azure can use an even broader range of species. Please remember that planting the larval host is no guarantee you will attract the butterfly.

**Species indicated below are plants we commonly grow and sell at Wildtype**

### Plants that serve as larval hosts for butterflies and skippers:

Scientific Names (Plants)	Common Names (Plants)	Common Name (Butterflies)
<b>Amelanchier spp.</b>	<b>Serviceberry</b>	Striped Hairstreak
<b>Amorpha canescens</b>	<b>Leadplant</b>	Southern Dogface, Northern Cloudywing
<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i>	Hog-Peanut	Northern Cloudywing
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting	American Lady
<b>Andropogon gerardii</b>	<b>Big Bluestem</b>	Cobweb Skipper, Dusted Skipper
<b>Angelica atropurpurea</b>	<b>Angelica</b>	Black Swallowtail
<b>Antennaria spp.</b>	<b>Pussytoes</b>	American Lady
<b>Aquilegia canadensis</b>	<b>Columbine</b>	Columbine Duskywing
<b>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</b>	<b>Bearberry</b>	Brown Elfin, Hoary Elfin
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	Virginia Snakeroot	Pipevine Swallowtail
<b>Asclepias spp.</b>	<b>Various Milkweeds</b>	Monarch
<b>Asimina triloba</b>	<b>Pawpaw</b>	Zebra Swallowtail
<b>Baptisia tinctoria</b>	<b>Wild Indigo</b>	Wild Indigo Duskywing, Hoary Edge, Frosted Elfin
<b>Betula spp.</b>	<b>Birch</b>	Mourning Cloak, Compton Tortoiseshell, White Admiral, Canadian Tiger Swallowtail, Dreamy Duskywing
<b>Carex lacustris</b>	<b>Sedge</b>	Appalachian Eyed Brown
<b>Carex spp.</b>	<b>Sedges</b>	Eyed Brown, Chryso Arctic, Appalachian Brown, Black Dash, Dion Skipper, Broad Winged Skipper, Mulberry Wing, Dun Skipper
<i>Carya spp.</i>	Hickory	Banded Hairstreak, Hickory Hairstreak
<b>Ceanothus americanus</b>	<b>New Jersey Tea</b>	Summer Azure, Mottled Duskywing
<b>Celtis occidentalis</b>	<b>Hackberry</b>	Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, Question Mark, Mourning Cloak, American Snout

Scientific Names (Plants)	Common Names (Plants)	Common Name (Butterflies)
<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>	Dwarf Hackberry	Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, Question Mark, Mourning Cloak, American Snout
<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>	Leatherleaf	Brown Elfin
<b><i>Chelone glabra</i></b>	<b>Turtlehead</b>	Baltimore Checkerspot
<i>Cirsium muticum</i>	Swamp Thistle	Swamp Metalmark, Painted Lady
<i>Cirsium</i> spp.	Thistle	Painted Lady
<b><i>Cornus</i> spp.</b>	<b>Dogwoods</b>	Spring Azure, Summer Azure
<i>Crataegus</i> spp.	Hawthorn	Striped Hairstreak
<b><i>Dalea purpurea</i></b>	<b>Purple Prairie Clover</b>	Dogface Sulphur, Reakirt's Blue
<b><i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i></b>	<b>Shrubby Cinquefoil</b>	Dorcas Copper
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Showy Tick Trefoil	Eastern Tailed-Blue
<b><i>Doellingeria umbellata</i></b>	<b>Flat-Topped White Aster</b>	Harris's Checkerspot
<i>Eleocharis elliptica</i>	Golden-Seeded Spike Rush	Poweshiek Skipperling
<b><i>Elymus hystrix</i></b>	<b>Bottlebrush Grass</b>	Northern Pearly Eye, Little Wood Satyr
<b><i>Fragaria virginiana</i></b>	<b>Wild Strawberry</b>	Grizzled Skipper
<i>Gerardia</i> spp.	False Foxglove	Baltimore Checkerspot
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust	Silver-spotted Skipper
<b><i>Glyceria striata</i></b>	<b>Graceful Grass</b>	Pepper and Salt Skipper, Appalachian Brown
<i>Gnaphalium obtusifolium</i>	Sweet Everlasting	American Lady
<b><i>Helenium autumnale</i></b>	<b>Sneezeweed</b>	Silvery Checkerspot
<b><i>Helianthus</i> spp.</b>	<b>Sunflowers</b>	Silvery Checkerspot, Gorgone Checkerspot
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut	Banded Hairstreak, Hickory Hairstreak
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut	Banded Hairstreak
<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	Sheep-Laurel	American Copper, Brown Elfin
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Rice Cut Grass	Least Skipper, Peck's Skipper, Hobomok Skipper
<b>Legumes</b>		Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper, Gray Hairstreak
<b><i>Lespedeza</i> spp;</b>	<b>Bush Clovers</b>	Eastern Tailed-Blue, Gray Hairstreak, Hoary Edge, Northern Cloudywing, Southern Cloudywing
<b><i>Lindera Benzoin</i></b>	<b>Spicebush</b>	Spicebush Swallowtail
<b><i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i></b>	<b>Tulip Poplar</b>	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
<b><i>Lupinus perennis</i></b>	<b>Lupine</b>	Eastern Tailed-Blue, Kerner Blue, Frosted Elfin, Gray Hairstreak, Persius Duskywing, Wild Indigo Duskywing, Painted Lady
<i>Panicum clandestinum</i>	Panic Grass	Least Skipper
<b><i>Panicum virgatum</i></b>	<b>Switch Grass</b>	Delaware Skipper
<i>Pinus</i> spp.	Pine	Eastern Pine Elfin
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood	Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple, Mourning Cloak, Dreamy Duskywing
<b><i>Populus</i> spp.</b>	<b>Aspen</b>	Common Tortoiseshell, Mourning Cloak, White Admiral, Canadian Tiger Swallowtail, Dreamy Duskywing
<b><i>Prunus</i> spp.</b>	<b>Cherries and Plums</b>	Coral Hairstreak, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple, Spring Azure, Striped Hairstreak

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<i>Pseudonaphalum obtusifolium</i>	Sweet Everlasting	American Lady
<b>Ptelea trifoliata</b>	<b>Hop Tree</b>	Giant Swallowtail,
		Banded Hairstreak, White M Hairstreak, Juvenal's Duskywing, Sleepy Duskywing, Horace's Duskywing, Hickory Hairstreak, Edward's Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple
<b>Quercus spp.</b>	<b>Oak</b>	
<b>Rhus spp.</b>	<b>Sumac</b>	Summer Azure
<b>Ribes spp.</b>	<b>Gooseberry sp.</b>	Gray Common
<b>Rudbeckia hirta</b>	<b>Black-Eyed Susan</b>	Gorgone Checkerspot
<i>Rumex orbiculatus</i>	Great Water Dock	Purplish Copper, Bronze Copper
		Compton Tortoiseshell, Acadian Hairstreak, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Dreamy Duskywing, Red-spotted Purple
<b>Salix spp.</b>	<b>Willow</b>	
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	Spicebush Swallowtail
		Indian Skipper, Crossline Skipper, Cobweb Skipper, Hobomok Skipper, Dusted Skipper
<b>Schizachyrium scoparium</b>	<b>Little Bluestem</b>	
<b>Senna hebecarpa</b>	<b>Wild Senna</b>	Cloudless Sulphur
<b>Sorghastrum nutans</b>	<b>Indian Grass</b>	Pepper and Salt Skipper
<b>Spartina pectinata</b>	<b>Prairie Cordgrass</b>	Least Skipper
<b>Spiraea spp.</b>	<b>Spiraea</b>	Spring Azure, Summer Azure
		Pearl Crescent, Silvery Checkerspot, Gorgone Checkerspot, Northern Crescent
		Mourning Cloak, Question Mark, Eastern Comma, Compton Tortoiseshell
<i>Ulmus spp.</i>	Elm	
<i>Umbelliferae</i>	Parsley Family	Black Swallowtail
<i>Urtica spp.</i>	Nettle	Question Mark, Eastern Comma, Red Admiral, Milbert's Tortoiseshell
		Northern Spring Azure, Pink-edged Sulphur, Striped Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin
<b>Vaccinium spp.</b>	<b>Blueberry</b>	
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	Wingstem	Summer Azure
<b>Viburnum spp.</b>	<b>Viburnum</b>	Baltimore Checkerspot, Spring Azure, Henry's Elfin
		Great Spangled Fritillary, Aphrodite Fritillary, Silver-bordered Fritillary, Meadow Fritillary
<i>Viola spp.</i>	Violets	
<b>Zanthoxylum americanum</b>	<b>Prickly Ash</b>	Giant Swallowtail
<b>Zizia aurea</b>	<b>Golden Alexander</b>	Black Swallowtail

**Nectaring Plants - Butterflies and skippers do not have the same host specificity for nectaring sources as they do for larval host. Use this guide very generally as you are likely to see a great range of butterflies using a variety of flowers for nectar.**

Scientific Names (Plants)	Common Names (Plants)	Common Names (Butterflies)
<b>Amorpha canescens</b>	<b>Leadplant</b>	Coral Hairstreak, Banded Hairstreak
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting	Silver-bordered Fritillary
		Coral Hairstreak, Banded Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Summer Azure, Great Spangled Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Baltimore Checkerspot, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, American Lady, Common Buckeye, White Admiral, Monarch, Red-spotted Purple
<i>Apocynum spp.</i>	Dogbane	

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<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Banded Hairstreak, Eyed Brown
		Pipevine Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Gray Hairstreak, Summer Azure, Great Spangled Fritillary, Aphrodite Fritillary, Silvery Checkerspot, Baltimore Checkerspot, American Lady, Red Admiral, Little Wood Satyr, Common Wood-Nymph
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	
		Spicebush Swallowtail, Coral Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Variegated Fritillary, Silvery Checkerspot, Pearl Crescent
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	Spicebush Swallowtail, Purplish Copper, Coral Hairstreak, Summer Azure, Karner Blue, Great Spangled Fritillary
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Giant Swallowtail, Painted Lady, Common Wood Nymph
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	assorted butterflies
<i>Cirsium muticum</i>	Swamp Thistle	Swamp Metalmark, Baltimore Checkerspot
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Sand Coreopsis	assorted butterflies
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	Tall Tickseed	assorted butterflies
<i>Cornus</i> spp.	Dogwood	assorted butterflies
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	Dorcas Copper, Swamp Metalmark, Baltimore Checkerspot
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	assorted butterflies
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake-Master	assorted butterflies
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	Silver-bordered Fritillary, Milbert's Tortoiseshell
		Giant Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Orange Sulphur, Variegated Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Viceroy, Eyed Brown,
<i>Eutrochium</i> spp.	Joe Pye Weed	
<i>Fragaria</i> spp.	Strawberry	Coral Hairstreak, Gray Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Silvery Blue
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Western Sunflower	assorted butterflies
<i>Hypericum</i> spp.	St. Johns Wort	Karner Blue
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Iris	Silver-bordered Fritillary
		Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak, Aphrodite Fritillary, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Common Wood Nymph
<i>Liatris</i> spp.	Blazing Star	
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	assorted butterflies
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine	Spicebush Swallowtail, Painted Lady
<i>Malus coronaria</i>	Crabapple	Spicebush Swallowtail
<i>Mentha</i> spp.	Mints	Gray Hairstreak
		Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Great Spangled Fritillary, Common Wood Nymph, Monarch
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Bee Balm	
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Horsemint	Karner Blue
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Phlox	Karner Blue
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Common Ninebark	assorted butterflies
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	assorted butterflies
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	American Lady, Silvery Blue
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow Coneflower	assorted butterflies

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<b>Rhus typhina</b>	<b>Staghorn Sumac</b>	Banded Hairstreak, Summer Azure, American Snout, Silvery Checkerspot, Red Admiral, White Admiral, Little Wood Satyr, Red-spotted Purple Spicebush Swallowtail, Coral Hairstreak, Kameron Blue, Pearl Crescent, Painted Lady, Viceroy
Rubus spp.	Blackberry	Dorcas Copper, Coral Hairstreak, Swamp Metalmark, Great Spangled Fritillary, Meadow Fritillary, Milbert's Tortoiseshell,
<b>Rudbeckia hirta</b>	<b>Black-Eyed Susan</b>	assorted butterflies
Rudbeckia triloba	Three-Lobed Coneflower	assorted butterflies
<b>Silphium perfoliatum</b>	<b>Cup Plant</b>	assorted butterflies
<b>Silphium terebinthinaceum</b>	<b>Prairie-Dock</b>	Clouded Sulphur, Purplish Copper, Gray Hairstreak, American Snout, Silver-bordered Fritillary, Pearl Crescent, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Viceroy, Common Wood-Nymph, Monarch, Eastern Tailed-Blue
<b>Solidago spp.</b>	<b>Goldenrod</b>	Pepper and Salt Skipper
<b>Sorghastum nutans</b>	<b>Indian Grass</b>	Coral Hairstreak, Summer Azure
<b>Spiraea spp.</b>	<b>Spiraea sp.</b>	Eastern Tailed-Blue, Silver-bordered Fritillary, American Lady, Common Buckeye, Viceroy, Common Wood Nymph
<b>Symphotrichum spp.</b>	<b>Asters</b>	Spicebush Swallowtail, Silvery Blue
<b>Vaccinium spp.</b>	<b>Blueberry</b>	Orange Sulphur, Common Wood-Nymph
<b>Verbena hastata</b>	<b>Blue Vervain</b>	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Painted Lady, Monarch
<b>Veronia missurica</b>	<b>Ironweed</b>	assorted butterflies
<b>Veronicastrum virginicum</b>	<b>Culver's-Root</b>	Henry's Elfin
<b>Viburnum spp.</b>	<b>Viburnum</b>	

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