

COMMON BUTTERFLY LARVAL HOST PLANTS

A host plant is a specific plant species that is needed for an organism to complete its lifecycle. Butterflies will lay their eggs on specific plant species (or genera), and that specific plant will provide nourishment and shelter for the growing caterpillar.



Spicebush Swallowtail
(*Papilio troilus*)

Host Plant(s):
Spicebush and Sassafras
Lindera benzoin
and *Sassafras albidum*



Northern Spicebush



Monarch Butterfly
(*Danaus plexippus*)

Host Plant(s):
Milkweed
Asclepias spp.



Common Milkweed



Gulf Fritillary
(*Agraulis vanillae*)

Host Plant(s):
Passion Flower Vine
Passiflora spp.



Yellow Passionflower



Common Buckeye
(*Junonia coenia*)

Host Plant(s):
False Foxglove, Plantain,
and Wild Petunia
Agalinis spp., *Plantago*
spp., and *Ruellia* spp.



Purple False Foxglove



Zebra Swallowtail
(*Eurytides marcellus*)

Host Plant(s):
Pawpaw
Asimina spp.



Pawpaw



Scan the QR Code to download pollinator-friendly plant lists for your region.





Golden Alexanders

Black Swallowtail
(*Papilio polyxenes*)

Host Plant(s): Golden Alexanders and Heart-leaf Alexanders
Zizia aurea and *Zizia aptera*



Parlin's Pussytoes

American Lady
(*Vanessa virginiensis*)

Host Plant(s): Everlastings and Pussytoes
Gamochaeta spp. and *Antennaria* spp.



False Nettle

Question Mark
(*Polygonia interrogationis*)

Host Plant(s): Nettles and False Nettles
Urtica spp. and *Boehmeria* spp.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
(*Papilio glaucus*)

Host Plant(s): Black Cherry, Cottonwood, and Tulip Tree
Prunus serotina, *Populus deltoides*, and *Liriodendron tulipifera*



Tulip Tree



Black Willow

Mourning Cloak
(*Nymphalis antiopa*)

Host Plant(s): Willows, American Elm, Cottonwood, and Hackberry
Salix spp., *Ulmus americana*, *Populus deltoides*, and *Celtis occidentalis*



Common Blue Violet

Great Spangled Fritillary
(*Argynnis cybele*)

Host Plant(s): Violets
Viola spp.



Note: The host plant lists for some butterfly species are not exhaustive.