

Native and Non-Native* Caterpillar Host Plants for Showy Butterfly Species.

In order for butterfly populations to survive, their young (the caterpillars) must have plants to eat. Unlike moth caterpillars, the caterpillars of most butterfly species are found at low enough densities that they do not totally defoliate their host plant.

*** Non-native host plants are indicated by an asterisk**

CATERPILLAR HOST PLANTS

BUTTERFLY

Asters

Pearl Crescent

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
(other *Prunus* also used)

Coral Hairstreak (on Wild Plum)
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Red-spotted Purple
Striped Hairstreak (on Wild Plum)

Carrot Family including Queen Anne's Lace* and
many herb garden plants, e.g., Parsley*, Fennel*,
and Dill*

Black Swallowtail
caterpillars cause heavy defoliation

Common Lilac*

Tiger Swallowtail

Curled Dock* (*Rumex crispus*)

American Copper

Dogwood (*Cornus spp.*)

Spring Azure, Common Blue

Eastern Red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
(usually stands, not single trees)

Juniper (Olive) Hairstreak

Everlastings (including *Anaphilis margaritacea*,
Antennaria plantaginifolia) and other Composites

American Lady

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

Spring Azure, Common Blue

Lamb's-quarters* (*Chenopodium album*)
(generally regarded as a weed)

Common Sootywing

Lupine* (*Lupinus*)
(the only CT native Lupine is
Wild Lupine [*Lupinus perennis*])

Eastern Tailed Blue

Milkweeds (*Asclepias spp.*)

Monarch

HOST PLANTS (continued)

Nettles (*Urtica* spp. [some native, some not]),
False Nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*),
Wood Nettle (*Laportea canadensis*)

Oaks (*Quercus* spp.)

Pea Family including many non-native species,
such as Clovers*, Sweet-clovers* and Alfalfa*

Purpletop (=Tall Redtop; *Tridens flavens*)
(an often-planted native bunchgrass
considered to be an aggressive weed by some
sources)

Sassafras tree (*Sassafras albidum*)

Sheep-sorrel* (*Rumex acetosella*)
(generally regarded as a weed)

Snapdragon* (*Antirrhinum majus*)

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

Viburnum (*Viburnum* spp.)

Violets (*Viola* spp. – most are native)

Willows (*Salix* spp., scrubby ones; some *)

Wild False Foxgloves

Aureolaria (formerly *Gerardia*) *flava*
Aureolaria (formerly *Gerardia*) *pedicularia*
Aureolaria (formerly *Gerardia*) *virginica*

BUTTERFLIES (continued)

Eastern Comma
Question Mark
Red Admiral

Banded Hairstreak
Edward's Hairstreak
Juvenal's Duskywing
Red Spotted Purple

Clouded Sulphur
Eastern Tailed Blue
Orange Sulphur
Silver-spotted Skipper

Common Wood Nymph
also Crossline Skipper
Little Glassywing
Zabulon Skipper
(Note: the Skippers are not strongly showy)

Spicebush Swallowtail

American Copper

Common Buckeye

Spicebush Swallowtail

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Baltimore Checkerspot

Spring Azure, Common Blue

Fritillaries

Viceroy
Mourning Cloak

Baltimore Checkerspot

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September 2005