



Butterfly Host Plants

Butterfly caterpillars are very picky eaters! Some will only eat the plants in a specific genus. Others may enjoy a broader selection but still limit their diet to plants in a certain taxonomic family. The following list includes host plants for some of the common butterfly species.
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Common Name	Genus	Host Plants	Common Name	Genus	Host Plants
monarch	<i>Danus plexippus</i>	Genus <i>Asclepias</i> milkweeds	red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	nettles, false nettles, hops
tiger swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	many trees - birch, lilac, cherry, tulip, willows	painted lady, American painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i> <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	composites, mallows, thistle
black swallow-tail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	carrot family - <i>Angelica</i> , <i>Zizia</i> , dill, parsley, fennel	buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	plantain, snapdragon, vervain, stonecrop, <i>Ruellia</i>
spicebush swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>	spicebush, sassafras, bays	red-spotted purple	<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	apple, aspen, cherry, hawthorn, poplar, willow
giant swallowtail	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	prickly ash, citrus, rue, hops tree	viceroys	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	willow, poplar, aspen, apple, cherry, plum
pipevine swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>	pipevines, Virginia snakeroot	pearl crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	asters
cabbage white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	cabbage, cleome, mustards, nasturtium	gray hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	wide variety of plants - corn, oaks, strawberry, legumes and mallow
sulphurs	<i>Colias</i> spp., <i>Nathalis iole</i> <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	legumes - alfalfa, clovers, false indigo, sennas, vetch, marigold, sneezeweed	spring azure	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	blueberry, dogwood, viburnum, new jersey tea, wild cherry, spirea
morning cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	willow, aspen, elm, birch, hackberry	eastern tailed blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	legumes including vetches, clovers, alfalfa
comma, question mark	<i>Polygonia comma</i> , <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	hops vine, nettles, elm, hackberry	silver-spotted skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	wisteria, locusts, beans, tick trefoil
fritillaries	<i>Boloria</i> spp. <i>Speyeria</i> spp,	violets	fiery skipper, European skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i> <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	assorted grasses