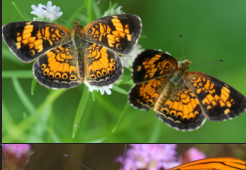
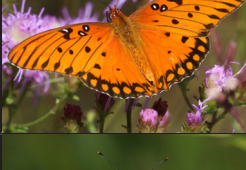
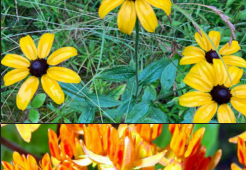
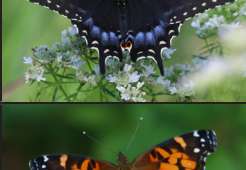
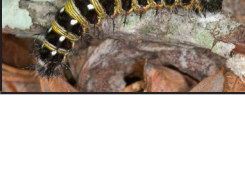
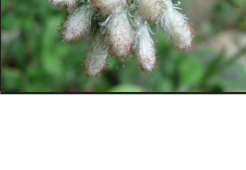


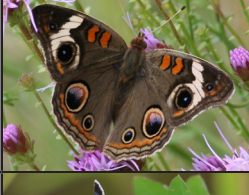
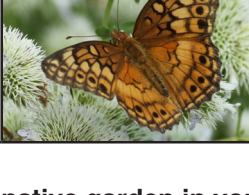
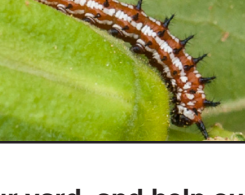
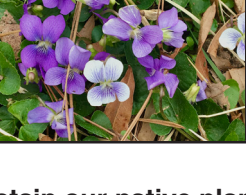


**North Carolina  
Native Plant Society**  
[ncwildflower.org](http://ncwildflower.org)

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

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

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



For extensive information on native plants, visit [ncwildflower.org/resources](https://ncwildflower.org/resources)

Plants courtesy of NCNPS Plant Gallery.

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