



# NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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## PIEDMONT (CENTRAL MARYLAND)

by Denise Gibbs

with assistance from Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason

### TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

Numbers in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month. Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species. \* = top ten recommended flowers.

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
A * Bloodflower <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2-4'	red & orange	5-11	many	grow as an annual
A * Brazilian verbena <i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	2-4'	lavender	5-11	Skippers	easily grown in containers
N * Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	4-12'	white	6-<7	Hairstreaks Skippers	doesn't need wetland conditions
N Common blackberry <i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	to 6'	white	6-7	one of few nectar sources for Baltimore Checkerspot	a bush; tolerates poor soil
N * Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	3-4'	purple	6-10	many	tolerates dry, poor soil
A * Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	4-12'	purple, white	6-11	many	purple attracts most species in morning; white best in afternoon
N * Dogbane <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	3-4'	white	>6	Hairstreaks, Blues many others	invasive (spreads vegetatively)
N Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	2-4'	orange	>6-7	Hairstreaks, Fritillaries Pearl Crescent	prefers well-drained soil
N * Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	4-6'	mauve	>6-7	Swallowtails, Fritillaries Monarch	allow room for plant to spread
N Wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	3-4'	lavender	>6-7	Swallowtails Silver-spotted Skipper	quickly spreads to fill an area
N Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	4'	pink-rose	>6-7	Swallowtails, Fritillaries Monarch	average soil fine; wetland not needed
N New Jersey tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	3'	white	>6-<8	Blues, American Lady Red Admiral	a bush; needs well-drained soil
N Sweet pepperbush <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	4-6'	white	>6-<8	Swallowtails, Skippers	a bush; tolerates moist/soggy soil

**PIEDMONT (CENTRAL MARYLAND)**

**TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS**

(continued)

	<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>COLOR</b>	<b>BLOOM SEASON</b>	<b>ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
N *	Joe-pye-weed <i>Eupatorium</i>	3-12'	mauve	7-8	Swallowtails Skippers	good tall hedge plant
N *	New York ironweed <i>Vernonia novaboracensis</i>	4-8'	magenta	8-9	Swallowtails, Fritillaries, Skippers	plant with early goldenrod
N	Blazingstar <i>Liatis</i>	2-3'	magenta/ purple	8-9	Fritillaries, Painted Lady Monarch, Skippers	
N	Hercules' club <i>Aralia spinosa</i>	to 12'	white	8-9	many, including fall migrat- ing Monarchs	woody spiny plant; copious fruit for fall migrant birds
N *	Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i>	3-8'	gold	8-11	many	easy to grow; spreads rapidly
N	New England aster <i>Aster nova-angliae</i>	3-4'	purple	9-11	Sulphurs, Pearl Crescent American Lady, Monarch	easy to grow; spreads rapidly

**NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION**

<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	I have seen only Cabbage Whites, Pearl Crescents, and Sulphurs on this
Jupiter's beard <i>Centranthus ruber</i>	I have never seen a butterfly nectaring on this.
Lavender <i>Lavendula</i>	Mostly attracts Cabbage Whites and Sulphurs
Live-forever <i>Sedum spectabile</i> 'Autumn Joy'	Mostly attracts Cabbage Whites, Sulphurs, and Painted Ladies

**TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS**

A number in front of a plant name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species, N\* = native to another part of North America.

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
N	Asters <i>Aster</i>	1-6'	Pearl Crescent	true native species are better than cultivars
N	Black locust <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	tree	Silver-spotted Skipper	considered a "trash tree" so hard to find in nursery trade
N*1	Bloodflower <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2-3'	Monarch	replant for each of the 3-4 (rarely 5) broods of Monarch
A	Clovers <i>Trifolium</i>	1-2'	Clouded and Orange Sulphurs, Gray Hairstreak, Eastern Tailed-Blue	easily grown from seed
N	Dutchman's pipevine <i>Aristolochia durior</i>	vine	Pipevine Swallowtail	plant several vines!

**PIEDMONT (CENTRAL MARYLAND)**

**TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS**

(continued)

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
N	Eastern red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	shrub	'Olive' Juniper Hairstreak	shallow-rooted; easy to move from fields to be destroyed
A 2	Fennel, dill, Queen Anne's lace (parsley family)	3-4'	Black Swallowtail	plant a lot!
A	Globe thistle <i>Echinops ritro</i>	1-2'	Painted Lady	not invasive; can be container-grown
N	Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	tree	Hackberry Emperor	not readily available at most plant nurseries
N	Hop tree <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	tree	Giant Swallowtail Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	not readily available at most plant nurseries
A	Hop vine <i>Humulus lupulus</i>	vine	Eastern Comma, Question Mark	plants get spider mites
N	Milkweeds <i>Asclepias</i>	2-6'	Monarch	plant several species to observe Monarch preference
N	Oaks <i>Quercus</i>	shrubs, trees	Banded, Red-banded, White M Hair-streaks; Juvenal's, Horace's Duskywing	white oaks and red oaks best
N	Pawpaw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	tree	Zebra Swallowtail	tolerates full shade
N 3	Pearly everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	1-2'	American Lady	plant a lot!
N	Prickly ash <i>Xanthoxylum americanum</i>	shrub	Giant Swallowtail	not readily available at most plant nurseries
N	Pussytoes <i>Antennaria</i>	6-8"	American Lady	spreads rapidly; good ground cover for dry slopes
N	Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	tree	Spicebush Swallowtail	trees "clone" themselves to form thickets
N	Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	to 10'	Spicebush Swallowtail	tolerates full shade
N	Sumacs <i>Rhus</i>	shrub	Red-banded Hairstreak	spreads rapidly; will "sucker" if cut at base
N	Sweet everlasting <i>Gnaphalium obtusifolium</i>	1-2'	American Lady	plant a lot!
N	Thistles <i>Cirsium</i>	2-4'	Painted Lady	prevent spreading by dead-heading flowers & seedheads
N	Tulip poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tree	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	trees grow rapidly
N	Violets <i>Viola</i>	6-8"	Fritillaries	
N	Wild cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	tree	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Coral and Striped Hairstreaks, Spring Azure Red-spotted Purple	copious fruit for birds

## PIEDMONT (CENTRAL MARYLAND)

### COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

A number in front of a butterfly name indicates a particularly likely species (1 = most expected to be seen). Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	5-8	Queen Anne's lace and other members of parsley family
1 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	>4-9	tulip poplar, wild cherry
Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Papilio troilus</i>	<5-<9	spicebush, sassafras
Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	3-10	wintercress, peppergrass
Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	<4-11	clovers
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	>4-<10	clovers, vetch, trefoils
Eastern Tailed-Blue <i>Everes comyntas</i>	>4-<10	clovers, vetch, trefoils
2 Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	m6-<9	violets
3 Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	5-11	asters
Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	4,6,<9	nettles, false nettles, elm, hops
Eastern Comma <i>Polygonia comma</i>	4,6,<9	nettles, false nettles, elm, hops
Red-spotted Purple <i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	<6-<10	wild cherry, oak, poplar
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	m4-m10	milkweeds
Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	5-9	black locust and other shrubby legumes
Wild Indigo Duskywing <i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	6,8	crown vetch, blue false indigo
Peck's Skipper <i>Polites peckius</i>	5-m6,8	grasses
Little Glassywing <i>Pompeius verna</i>	m6-8	purpletop grass
Sachem <i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	m7-9	Bermuda grass, crabgrass

## PIEDMONT (CENTRAL MARYLAND)

### LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	>6,>7	Dutchman's pipevine Virginia snakeroot	uncommon in yard
Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	<5->6,m7-9	prickly ash, hop tree	rare
American Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	6-8	sheep sorrel	uncommon in yard; prefers large fields
Coral Hairstreak <i>Satyrium titus</i>	>6	wild cherry	uncommon in yard
Banded Hairstreak <i>Satyrium calanus</i>	>5-7	oaks	uncommon in yard
American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>	>6-<8	hackberry	locally rare
Meadow Fritillary <i>Boloria bellona</i>	4,6,9	violets	uncommon in yard; prefers large fields
Baltimore Checkerspot turtlehead <i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>	>5->6 locally rare		

### GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

#### USDA ZONE: 7

This brochure emphasizes the Piedmont region of central Maryland but has some application to the Coastal Plain region of southern Maryland. The Maryland Piedmont has clay soil, with a growing season (from last spring frost to first fall frost) from about May 10 to October 10 (sometimes as late as November 5). The topography is hilly, rolling in some places, steep in others. The Maryland Coastal Plain is sandy and well-drained, with dry soils. The growing season (frost to frost) is from about April 23 to October 30 (sometimes as late as mid-November). The topography is mostly flat, with rolling hills (that are ancient sand dunes). The author runs "Wings and Wildflowers", a nursery of plants to attract butterflies and hummingbirds (P.O. Box 444, Damascus, Maryland 20872-0444, phone 301-253-6903).

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