



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 tel. 973-285-0907 fax 973-285-0936

NEW YORK CITY AREA

by Jeff Glassberg
with contributions from Guy Tudor

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

A number in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Numbers in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Wild geranium <i>Geranium maculatum</i>	1'	pink	4-5		wonderful for the woodland garden
A	Meyer's lilac <i>Syringa</i> Chinese hybrid	5-8'		5	many	heavily scented
N	Blue flag <i>Iris versicolor</i>	2'	purple	5-6	Skippers	
N	Indian hemp <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	3'	white	6-7	Hairstreaks Brush-foots, Skippers	
N 1	Purple milkweed <i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	3'	purple	>6-7		
A 3	Oriental hybrid lilies <i>Lilium x rubrum</i>	4'	red	7	Swallowtails	
A 1	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	8'	white			can be potted and grown on patio
A	Thyme <i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	2"	pink-purple			
A	Privet <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	10-15'	white		Swallowtails Brush-foots	
A	Globe amaranth <i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	2'	white, rose to frost			
A	Ox-eye daisy <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	12-18"	white, yellow center			
A 2	Zinnias <i>Zinnia</i>	2-3'	many			
N 1	Orange milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	2-3'	orange			also known as butterfly weed
N 1	Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3-4'	rose			
N 1	Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	3'	pink			

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	BLOOM COLOR	ATTRACTED SEASON	BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	New England aster <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	3'	purple, gold center			
N	Wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	3'	lavendar			
N	Boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	2-3'	white			
N 3	Goldenrods <i>Solidago</i> (especially <i>tenuifolia</i>)	2-4'	yellow			
N 2	Mountain mints <i>Pycnanthemum</i>	2-3'	white			
N	Thistles <i>Cirsium</i>	2-4'	pink, rose			Beware local weed ordinances!

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

FLOWER	COMMENTS
N Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	
A Day lilies <i>Hemerocallis</i>	
N Fire wheel <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	
A Japanesa honeysuckle <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	
A Lantanas <i>Lantana</i>	
N Meadowsweets <i>Spiraea</i>	
N/A Phloxes <i>Phlox</i>	neither native nor alien species
A Spider flower <i>Cleome spinosa</i>	
N Sunflowers <i>Helianthus</i>	
N/A Verbenas <i>Verbena</i>	
A Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	

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.

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N 3 American hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	20-70'	Hackberry Emperor	

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TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N 1	Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	3'	Monarch	See "FLOWERS"
A	Lamb's-quarters (pigweed) <i>Chenopodium album</i>	2'	Common Sootywing	
N 1	Orange milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	2-3'	Monarch	See "FLOWERS"
A 2	Parsley <i>Petroselinum hortense</i>	6-10"	Black Swallowtail	
N 1	Purple milkweed <i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	3'	Monarch	See "FLOWERS"
N	Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	10-50'	Spicebush Swallowtail	
N 1	Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3-4'	Monarch	See "FLOWERS"
N	Wild black cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	60-80'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Striped Hairstreak	

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 SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
	Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	>4-9	5-9	parsley family
2	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	>4-m9	5-9	wild black cherry, tulip tree
3	Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Papilio troilus</i>	>4-m9	5-9	sassafras, spicebush
1	Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	>3-<11	4-<11	mustard (cabbage) family
3	Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	m4-<11	5-11	white clover
3	Orange Sulphur <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	m4-<11	5-11	alfalfa and related
	Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	>4-10	5-10	many, esp. pea and and mallow families

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COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Eastern Tailed-Blue <i>Everes comyntas</i>	>4-10	5-10	pea family
3 'Summer' Spring Azure <i>Celastrina ladon (neglecta)</i>	m6-<9	7-9	flowers in many families
3 Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	5-10	5-10	asters
2 Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	5-<11	<4-5,7-<8	nettles, elms, hackberries
2 Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	3-<11	5-<6,>7-<8	willows and others
2 American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	m4-10	5-10	composites, esp. everlastings
2 Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	4-10	5-10	thistles and many other species
2 Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	m4-10	5-10	nettles
Little Wood-Satyr <i>Megisto cymela</i>	m5-7	6-8	grasses
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	>5-<11	6-10	milkweeds
Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	5-9	>5-9	black locust
Wild Indigo Duskywing <i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	m5-9	6-9	crown vetch, wild indigo
Common Sootywing <i>Pholisora catullus</i>	m5-m9	6-9	lamb's-quarters and others
Zabulon Skipper <i>Poanes zabulon</i>	>5-<9	6-9	grasses

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 SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Banded Hairstreak <i>Satyrium calanus</i>	m6->7	4-5	oaks, hickories

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LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Striped Hairstreak <i>Satyrium liparops</i>	m6-7	4-5	wild cherries, blueberries, and others	
Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	m6-m9	4-5,7-9	American hackberry	
Tawny Emperor <i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	7-m9	5-<6,>7-9	American hackberry	

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 6

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