



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (DETROIT AREA)

by Chuck Pearson

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	Lanceleaf coreopsis <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	2'	yellow	6-9	Cabbage White, Spring Azure, Monarch	
N	Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3'	pink	7-8	Black Swallowtail, Monarch, Skippers	self seeds, blooms second year
N 2	Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	3'	purple	7-9	Black Swallowtail, Fritillaries, Monarch	easy from seed
A	Broccoli <i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>italica</i>	3'	yellow	8	Cabbage White	best nectar flower for Cabbage White
A	Nodding thistle <i>Carduus nutans</i>	6'	purple	8	Monarch	seedlings invasive
N	Pearly everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	18"	white	8	Spring Azure, Fritillaries, Monarch	
A 1	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	6'	purple	8-9	Cabbage White, Red-spotted Purple, Monarch, Skippers	
A 5	Cosmos (yellow) <i>Cosmos sulphureus</i>	3'	yellow	8-9	Monarch	
A 3	Mexican sunflower <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	6'	orange	8-9	Cabbage White, Fritillaries, Monarch	Good for screening
N	Meadow blazingstar <i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	2'	purple	8-9	Monarch	
A 4	Zinnia <i>Zinnia elegans</i>	3'	many	8-9	Black Swallowtail, Fritillaries, Monarch	

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER

- A Azalea *Azalea*
- N Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*
- A Chrysanthemum *Chrysanthemum*
- A Day lily *Hemerocallis*
- N/A Gaillardia *Gaillardia*

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NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

(continued)

FLOWER

- A Honeysuckle *Lonicera*
- A Impatiens *Impatiens*
- A Lilac *Syringa vulgaris*
- A Marigold *Tagetes*
- A Petunia *Petunia*
- A Phlox *Phlox*
- N Shubby cinquefoil *Potentilla fruticosa*

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	Dill <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	1'	Black Swallowtail	
N 2	Pearly everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	18"	American Lady	
N 1	Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3'	Monarch	
N 4	Tulip tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	70'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Good ornamental tree

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 in the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

	NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
2	Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	6-8	7-8	carrot, dill, fennel, rue
3	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	6-8	7-8	tulip tree
1	Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	4-9	5-9	broccoli
	Spring Azure <i>Celastrina ladon</i>	5-8	5-8	flowers of shrubs and trees
	Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	7-8	9-5	violets

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COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	6-8	6-8	asters	
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	4-5, 6-8	5-6	willows	
Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	7		nettles	
Eastern Comma <i>Polygonia comma</i>	7		nettles, elms	
American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	6-8	5, 7	pearly everlasting	
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	5-8	6-7	nettles	
Red-spotted Purple <i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	6, 8	7	wild cherry and others	
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	6-10	7-9	swamp milkweed and other milkweeds	

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	COMMENTS
Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	6, 8	7, 9	prickly ash	
Coral Hairstreak <i>Satyrrium titus</i>	7	5-6	wild cherry	
Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	7-8		hackberry tree	
Little Wood-Satyr <i>Megisto cymela</i>	6-7		grasses	
Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	7-8		black and honey locust	

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 5 (last frost in early May, first full frost in mid-October)

Mud puddles can also be useful as a food source for adult butterflies, especially Giant Swallowtail.

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