



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN

by Ann B. Swengel

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	Lyre-leaved Rock Cress <i>Arabis lyrata</i>	6-12"	white	4-5	Olympia Marble Eastern Pine Elfin	prefers sandy, well-drained soil
N	Birdfoot Violet <i>Viola pedata</i>	4-6"	purple	5	Eastern Pine Elfin Meadow Fritillary Common Roadside-Skipper	needs well-drained soil
N 7	Pussy toes <i>Antennaria</i>	4-8"	white	5	Eastern Pine Elfin Olive Hairstreak American Lady	
N	Wild cherries <i>Prunus</i>	5-40'	white	5	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Spring Azure	
N	Puccoons <i>Lithospermum</i>	1-2'	gold	5-7	Gorgone Checkerspot Tawny-edged Skipper	
N	Pale purple coneflower <i>Echinacea pallida</i>	3'	pink	6-7	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary Monarch Silver-spotted Skipper	needs well-drained soil
N 1	Butterfly milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	2-3'	orange	7	Coral & Banded Hairstreaks Olive Hairstreak Great Spangled Fritillary Pearl Crescent, Monarch	
N 2	Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	3-4'	pink	7	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Coral & Banded Hairstreaks Olive Hairstreak Great Spangled Fritillary Monarch Northern Broken-Dash	
N 3	Wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2-3'	lavendar	7	Giant Swallowtail Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary Aphrodite Fritillary Red Admiral	spreads aggressive- ly; tolerates shade

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
	Wild bergamot (con.)				Silver-spotted Skipper Northern Broken-Dash	
N	Joe-pye-weed <i>Eupatorium</i>	3-5'	pink	7-8	Giant Swallowtail Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Pearl Crescent	prefers rich, moist soil
N	Ox-eye <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	2-4'	yellow	7-8	Clouded Sulphur Pearl Crescent	prefers moist, well-drained average soil; tolerates heat
N	Prairie blazingstar <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	2-3'	magenta	7-8	Black Swallowtail Monarch	prefers moist soil
N	Whorled milkweed <i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	12-18"	white	7-8	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Olive Hairstreak, Monarch	
N	Gray goldenrod <i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	6-18"	yellow	7-9	Cabbage White American Copper Coral Hairstreak Red Admiral	
N 5	Showy goldenrod <i>Solidago speciosa</i>	1-2'	yellow	7-9	Cabbage White American Copper Coral Hairstreak Red Admiral	
N	Stiff goldenrod <i>Solidago rigida</i>	2-3'	yellow	8-9	Clouded Sulphur Orange Sulphur, Monarch	
N 4	Rough blazingstar <i>Liatris aspera</i>	2-3'	magenta	8-9	Clouded Sulphur Orange Sulphur Little Sulphur, Monarch Leonard's Skipper	prefers sunny, well-drained sites
N 6	New England aster <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	2-4'	purple	8-9	Cabbage White Milbert's Tortoiseshell Monarch	prefers moist, well-drained average soil

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
A Apples <i>Malus</i>	visited more by bees than butterflies
N Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	occasionally visited but other daisies much better for butterflies
N Bush cinquefoil <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	a lovely & durable shrub but rarely visited

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NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

(continued)

FLOWER	COMMENTS
A Lilac <i>Syringea vulgaris</i>	occasionally visited but not frequented
N Rosinweed <i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	occasionally visited but other <i>Silphiums</i> better
N Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i>	
N Wild geranium <i>Geranium maculatum</i>	doesn't attract much, possibly because it's usually found in the shade
Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	occasionally attracts a butterfly

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
A Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i>	1-2'	Clouded & Orange Sulphurs	
N Ashes <i>Fraxinus</i>	20-50'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	
N Aspens, poplars <i>Populus</i>	10-30'	Mourning Cloak Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy	
N 6 Asters <i>Aster</i>	1-4'	Pearl Crescent	
A Broccoli, cabbage, cresses, & related	variable	Cabbage White	
N 2 Carrots, dill, fennel, parsley	1-3'	Black Swallowtail	
A/N Clovers <i>Trifolium</i>	6-18"	Clouded Sulphur	
N Hackberries <i>Asterocampa</i>	15-40'	Hackberry Emperor	
N 1 Milkweeds <i>Asclepias</i>	1-4'	Monarch	See "FLOWERS" above
N Nettles <i>Urtica</i>	1-3'	Eastern Comma Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral	
N 4 Oaks <i>Quercus</i>	30-60'	Banded Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple Juvenal's Duskywing	
N 5 Pussy toes <i>Antennaria</i>	4-8"	American Lady	See "FLOWERS" above
N 7 Violets <i>Viola</i>	4-8"	Great Spangled Fritillary Aphrodite & Meadow Fritillaries	

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TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N 3	Wild cherries <i>Prunus</i>	5-40'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Coral Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple	See "FLOWERS" above
N	Willows <i>Salix</i>	4-30'	Mourning Cloak	
N	Eastern red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	4-30'	Olive Hairstreak	
N	Lyre-leaved rock cress <i>Arabis lyrata</i>	6-12"	Olympia Marble	See "FLOWERS" above
N	Pines, especially "hard" <i>Pinus</i>	20-60'	Eastern Pine Elfin	

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

A number in front of a butterfly indicates a particularly likely species (1 = most expected to be observed). 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
2	Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	5-9	5-9	parsley family (carrot, dill, parsley, fennel, Queen Anne's lace)
2	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	>4-8	5-9	cherries, ashes, serviceberries
1	Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	m4-m10	4-9	mustard (cabbage) family (vegetables & cresses)
1	Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	m5-10	5-10	white & other clovers, trefoils, alfalfa, & other legumes
1	Orange Sulphur <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	m5-10	5-10	alfalfa, white sweet clover, vetches, & other legumes
	Coral Hairstreak <i>Satyrium titus</i>	>6-<8	4-5	wild cherries
3	Banded Hairstreak <i>Satyrium calanus</i>	>6-<8	4-5	hickories, oaks, walnuts
3	Spring ('Summer') Azure <i>Celastrina ladon (neglecta)</i>	>5-<9	6-9	flowers of dogwoods, legumes, meadow-sweets, sumacs
3	Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	m6-<9	4-5	violets

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COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
2 Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	5-9	5-10	asters
Eastern Comma <i>Polygonia comma</i>	3-11	4-8	nettles, false nettles, hops, elms
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	3-11	4-6	aspens, birches, cottonwoods, willows
Milbert's Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis milberti</i>	3-11	4-8	nettles
2 American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	5-9	5-9	everlastings, pussytoes, & related
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	5-9	6-9	false nettles, nettles, wood nettles
2 Red-spotted Purple <i>Limenitis arthemis (astyanax)</i>	>5-<9	4-10	wild cherries, aspens, oaks, other trees & shrubs
Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	6-8	5-9	hackberries
Common Wood-Nymph <i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	>6-<9	5	grasses
1 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	>5-<10	6-9	milkweeds
Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	6-8	6-9	black & honey locust
Juvenal's Duskywing <i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	>4-<6	5-7	oaks
Hobomok Skipper <i>Poanes hobomok</i>	>5-6	6-7	grasses
Northern Broken-Dash <i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>	m6-m8	5-9	panic grasses

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

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NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	>5-9	6-9	Prickly ash

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LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Olympia Marble <i>Euchloe olympia</i>	m4-5	5-6	Lyre-leaved rock cress
Little Sulphur <i>Eurema lisa</i>			Partridge pea & other <i>Cassias</i>
American Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	5-9	5-9	Sheep sorrel
Eastern Pine Elfin <i>Callophrys niphon</i>	5-<6	5-7	pinus, especially "hard" ones
Olive Hairstreak <i>Callophrys gryneus (gryneus)</i>	5,7	5-8	Eastern red cedar
Gorgone Checkerspot <i>Chlosyne gorgone</i>	>4-<6,7-8		asters, sunflowers, & related
Tawny Emperor <i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	7	7-8	hackberries
Leonard's Skipper <i>Hesperia leonardus (leonardus)</i>	8-9	5-7,9	Big & little bluestem

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 4

The region has a climate of extremes: the hottest days in summer may exceed 100°F and the coldest days in winter may reach -35°F. Precipitation varies between very droughty and flooded spells. It is best to avoid putting your garden in the most exposed, extreme microclimates of your yard, unless you have chosen the most durable possible plants to put there.

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