



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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WEST CENTRAL 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	4-6	Olympia Marble Eastern Pine Elfin	prefers sandy, well-drained soil; sun
N	Birdfoot violet <i>Viola pedata</i>	4-6"	purple	5	Eastern Pine Elfin Meadow Fritillary	needs well-drained soil
N	Pussy toes <i>Antennaria</i>	4-8"	white	5	Eastern Pine Elfin Hoary Elfin American Lady	
N 6	Blue- and huckleberries <i>Vaccinium</i>	1-2'	white	5	Brown & Hoary Elfins Spring Azure Juvenal's & Dreamy Duskywings	
N	Wild cherries <i>Prunus</i>	5-40'	white	5	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Spring Azure	
N	Black- and raspberries <i>Rubus</i>	1-4'	white	5-6	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Karner Blue Northern Crescent Hobomok Skipper	tolerate shade
N	Labrador tea <i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	2-3'	white	5-6	Silver-bordered Fritillary	needs moist acid peat soil
N	Wild lupine <i>Lupinus perennis</i>	1-2'	purple	5-6	Eastern Pine Elfin Karner Blue Monarch Hobomok Skipper	
N	Redroot <i>Ceanothus ovatus</i>	1-3'	white	5-6	Eastern Pine Elfin	needs well-drained light soil; sun; drought tolerant
N	Downy Phlox <i>Phlox pilosa</i>	6-12"	pink	6	Northern Crescent Hobomok Skipper	prefers well- drained soil
N	Meadowsweets <i>Spiraea</i>	2-3'	white, pink	7	Karner Blue	
N 1	Butterfly milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	2-3'	orange	7	Coral & Banded Hairstreaks Edwards' Hairstreak Eastern Tailed Blue	

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
Butterfly milkweed (con.)				Karner Blue Great Spangled Fritillary Monarch	
N 2 Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	3-4'	pink	7	Coral & Banded Hairstreaks Edwards' Hairstreak Great Spangled Fritillary Aphrodite Fritillary Monarch	
N 3 Wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2-3'	lavendar	7	Northern Broken-Dash Great Spangled Fritillary Aphrodite Fritillary Northern Broken-Dash	spreads aggressively; tolerates shade
N New Jersey tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	1-3'	white	7-8	Karner Blue Northern Broken-Dash	needs well-drained light soil; sun; drought tolerant
N Prairie blazingstar <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	2-3'	magenta	7-8	Mourning Cloak Monarch Northern Broken-Dash	prefers moist soil
N Gray goldenrod <i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	6-18"	yellow	7-9	American Copper Coral Hairstreak	
N 5 Showy goldenrod <i>Solidago speciosa</i>	1-2'	yellow	7-9	American Copper Coral Hairstreak	
N Whorled milkweed <i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	12-18"	white	8	Monarch	
N 4 Rough blazingstar <i>Liatris aspera</i>	2-3'	magenta	8-9	Clouded Sulphur Pink-edged Sulphur Monarch Leonard's Skipper	prefers sunny, well-drained sites
N Silky aster <i>Aster sericeus</i>	6-18"	purple	8-9	Clouded Sulphur Monarch	

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>	only visited occasionally

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NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

(continued)

FLOWER	COMMENTS
N Bush cinquefoil <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	lovely & durable but rarely visited
A Butterfly bushes <i>Buddleia</i>	questionable hardiness in this region
A Lilac <i>Syringea vulgaris</i>	only visited occasionally
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 visited

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 Aspens, poplars <i>Populus</i>	10-30'	Mourning Cloak White Admiral Viceroy Dreamy Duskywing Northern Crescent	
N 5 Asters <i>Aster</i>	1-4'	Northern Crescent	
N Birches <i>Betula</i>	10-40'	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Mourning Cloak White Admiral	
N Blue- & huckleberries <i>Vaccinium</i>	1-2'	Pink-edged Sulphur Brown Elfin Spring Azure	See "FLOWERS" above
A/N Clovers <i>Trifolium</i>	6-18"	Clouded Sulphur	
N 1 Milkweeds <i>Asclepias</i>	1-4'	Monarch	See "FLOWERS" above
N Nettles <i>Urtica</i>	1-3'	Eastern Comma	
N Oaks <i>Quercus</i>	30-60'	Banded & Edwards' Hairstreak	
N Pines, especially "hard" <i>Pinus</i>	20-60'	Eastern Pine Elfin	
N 4 Pussy toes <i>Antennaria</i>	4-8"	American Lady	See "FLOWERS" above
N 6 Violets <i>Viola</i>	4-8"	Great Spangled & Aphrodite Fritillaries Meadow & Silver-bordered Fritillaries	

WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N 2	Wild cherries <i>Prunus</i>	5-50'	Coral Hairstreak	See "FLOWERS" above
N	Willows <i>Salix</i>	4-30'	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Mourning Cloak Viceroy Dreamy Duskywing	
N	Lyre-leaved rock cress <i>Arabis lyrata</i>	6-12"	Olympia Marble	See "FLOWERS" above
N	Wild lupine <i>Lupinus perennis</i>	1-2'	Karner Blue	See "FLOWERS" above

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
2	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio canadensis</i>	6-m7	6-8	alders, birches, cottonwoods, poplars, willows
1	Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	5-9	5-9	white & other clovers, trefoils, & other legumes
	Pink-edged Sulphur <i>Colias interior</i>	6-8	6-9	blue- & huckleberries
	Coral Hairstreak <i>Satyrium titus</i>	7-8	5-6	wild cherries
3	Banded Hairstreak <i>Satyrium calanus</i>	7-8	5-6	hickories, oaks
	Edwards' Hairstreak <i>Satyrium edwardsii</i>	7-8	5-6	oaks
	Eastern Pine Elfin <i>Callophrys niphon</i>	5-m6	5-7	piners, especially "hard" ones
3	Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	7-8	5-6	violets
	Aphrodite Fritillary <i>Speyeria aphrodite</i>	7-8	5-6	violets
2	Northern Crescent <i>Phyciodes selenis</i>	6-7	6-8	asters

WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Eastern Comma <i>Polygonia comma</i>	4-10	4-8	nettles, false nettles, elms
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	4-10	4-6	birches, cottonwoods, poplars, willows
2 American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	5-8	5-8	everlastings, pussy toes, & related
2 White Admiral <i>Limenitis arthemis (artemis)</i>	6-8	5-9	poplars, other trees & shrubs
Viceroy <i>Limenitis archippus</i>	6-8	5-9	poplars, willows
Common Wood-Nymph <i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	7-8	5-6	grasses
1 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	6-9	6-8	milkweeds
2 Juvenal's Duskywing <i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	5-m6	5-7	oaks
3 Dreamy Duskywing <i>Erynnis icelus</i>	5-<6	5-7	poplars, willows
Hobomok Skipper <i>Poanes hobomok</i>	6	6-7	grasses
Northern Broken-Dash <i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>	7-m8	5-9	panic grasses

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

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NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Olympia Marble <i>Euchloe olympia</i>	>4-<6	5-6	lyre-leaved rock cress
American Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	5-8	5-8	sheep sorrel
Brown Elfin <i>Callophrys augustinus</i>	5	5-6	heaths (e.g. blueberries, bearberry, Labrador tea, leatherleaf)

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LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Hoary Elfin <i>Callophrys polios</i>	5	5-6	bearberry
Karner Blue <i>Lycaeides melissa (samuelis)</i>	>5-m6,m7-<8	5,m6-<7	wild lupine
Gorgone Checkerspot <i>Chlosyne gorgone</i>	m5-<6,7-8	5-8	asters, sunflowers, & related
Leonard's Skipper <i>Hesperia leonardus (leonardus)</i>	m8-m9	5-7,9	big & little bluestem
Dusted Skipper <i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i>	m5-<6	6-7	big & little bluestem

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 4

The growing season in this region is very short, with frosts during the growing season possible in low-lying areas or cold pockets. In many areas the soils are very sandy or mucky, making standard agriculture and horticulture difficult but native plants very appealing for the butterfly garden because of their adaptations to thrive under these conditions.

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