



# BUTTERFLIES AND THEIR HOST/NECTAR PLANTS

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*“If you like butterflies and moths to be guests in your yard, you must refrain from using poisons which kill the larval stage (caterpillar) of these insects. It is also essential that you provide food (host plants) for the caterpillars. Without caterpillars, there will be no adult butterflies. Oh yes, you may attract the adults who are wandering through your yard with colorful flowers, but they won’t stick around to lay their eggs. They will search for their for a yard or meadow that has the plant requirements for their individual species. Each butterfly or moth has a specific plant need for its offspring. It is a good idea to learn to identify these plants, so you can assist these beautiful creatures in their attempt to make your world a brighter, more fascinating and exciting place to live”*

--Janice Stiefel

## **MONARCH** (*Danaus plexippus*)

Hosts: Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Poke Milkweed (*Asclepias exaltata*), Prairie Milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Spreading Dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*)  
Nectar: Milkweeds and many other species of wild and domestic flowers.

## **VICEROY** (*Basalarchia archippus*)

Hosts: Willow (*Salix* spp.) preferred, Poplar and Aspen (*Populus* spp.), Apple (*Malus* spp.), Cherry/Plum (*Prunus* spp.)  
Nectar: Flower nectar, aphid honeydew, moisture from: rotting wood, fungi, dung, mud, etc.

## **RED-SPOTTED PURPLE** (*Basilarchia astyanax*)

Hosts: Willow (*Salix* spp.), Cherry (*Prunus* spp.), Poplar and Aspen (*Populus* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), Apple (*Malus* spp.)  
Nectar: Many wildflowers and tree blossoms.

## **WHITE ADMIRAL** (*Basilarchia arthemis*)

Hosts: Willow (*Salix* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), Poplar (*Populus* spp.), Birch (*Betula* spp.)  
Nectar: Misc. Flower species, rotting meat, running sap, aphid honeydew.

## **GRAY COMMA** (*Polygonia progne*)

Hosts: Gooseberry and Currants (*Ribes* spp.)  
Nectar: Sap, fruit, and mud, rarely flower nectar

## **QUESTION MARK** (*Polygonia interrogationis*)

Hosts: Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Tall Nettle (*Urtica procera*), False Nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), Elm (*Ulmus* spp.), Hops (*Humulus* spp.)  
Nectar: Asters (*Aster* spp.), sap, rotting fruit, mud, carrion, rarely flowers.

## **RED ADMIRAL** (*Vanessa atalanta*)

Hosts: Same as Question Mark  
Nectar: Sap, fruit, dung, and flower nectar

## **MILBERT’S TORTOISE SHELL** (*Nymphalis milberti*)

Hosts: Same as Question Mark  
Nectar: Many species of wildflowers.

## **PAINTED LADY** (*Vanessa cardui*)

Hosts: Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), Burdock (*Arctium* spp.), Sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.)  
Nectar: Aphid honeydew and various flower nectar.

## **AMERICAN PAINTED LADY** (*Vanessa virginiensis*)

Hosts: Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta* & *plantaginifolia*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Everlastings (*Gnaphalium* spp.), Burdock (*Arctium* spp.), Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), Wormwood (*Artemisia* spp.), Sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.), Ironweed (*Veronia* spp.), Viper’s Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), Jewelweed (*Impatiens* spp.)  
Nectar: Misc. flower nectar and mud.

## **MOURNING CLOAK** (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

Hosts: Willow (*Salix* spp.), Poplar (*Populus* spp.), Birch (*Betula* spp.), Maple (*Acer* spp.), Elm (*Ulmus* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.),  
Nectar: Rotting fruit, Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanum*), Dogbane (*Apocynum* spp.), Willow (*Salix* spp.)

## **BUCKEYE** (*Junonia coenia*)

Hosts: Plantain (*Plantago* spp.), Butter-and-Eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*), Water Speedwell (*Veronica* spp.), Figwort (*Scrophularia* spp.)  
Nectar: Misc. Species of wildflowers

## **BALTIMORE** (*Euphydryas phaeton*)

Hosts: Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), False Foxglove (*Gerardia grandiflora*), Fern-Leaved False Foxglove (*G. pedicularia*), Plantain (*Plantago* spp.), White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Monkey Flower (*Mimulus rigens*), Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*), Hairy Beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*), Figwort (*Scrophularia* spp.)  
Nectar: Flower nectar, but not that of Turtlehead.

## **PEARL CRESCENT** (*Phyciodes tharos*)

Hosts: Aster (*Aster* spp.)  
Nectar: Thistle (*Cirsium* & *Carduus* spp.) Aster (*Aster* spp.)

## **GREAT SPANGLED FRITILLARY** (*Speyeria cybete*)

## **SILVER-BORDERED FRITILLARY** (*Boloria selene*)

## **MEADOW FRITILLARY** (*Boloria bellona*)

Hosts: Violet (*Viola* spp.)  
Nectar: Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Thistle (*Cirsium* & *Carduus* spp.)



**LARGE WOOD NYMPH** (*Cercyonis pegala*)

Hosts: Bluestem (*Andropogon* spp.), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)  
Nectar: Flower nectar, alfalfa.

**EYED BROWN** (*Satyrodes eurydice*)

Hosts: Sedge (*Carex* spp.)  
Nectar: Rotting fruit, sap infrequently.

**LITTLE WOOD SATYR** (*Megisto cymela*)

Hosts: grasses  
Nectar: Sap, aphid honeydew, carrion, flower nectar

**NORTHERN PEARLY EYE** (*Enodia anthedon*)

Hosts: Dropseed (*Mulenbergia* spp.), Long-Awned Wood Grass (*Brachelytrum erectum*)  
Nectar: Willow (*Salix* spp.), Poplar (*Populus* spp.), running sap, carrion.

**EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL**(*Papilio glaucus*)

Hosts: Wild Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), Poplar (*Populus* spp.), Birch (*Betula* spp.)  
Nectar: Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.) , Bee-Blam (*Monardia* spp.), Sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.), Ironweed (*Veronia* spp.), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

**EASTERN BLACK SWALLOWTAIL** (*Papilio polyxenes*)

Hosts: Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*), Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*), Aniseroot (*Osmorhiza longistylis*), Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), Caraway (*Carum carvi*), Water-Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Taenidia integerrima*), Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*),  
Nectar: Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), Phlox (*Phlox* spp.)

**KARNER BLUE** (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*)

Hosts: Wild Blue Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

**EASTERN TAILED BLUE** (*Everes comyntas*)

Hosts: Clover (*Trifolium* spp.), Bush Clover (*Lespedeza* spp.), Bean (*Phaseolus* spp.), Tick-Trefoil (*Desmodium* spp.), Wild Pea (*Lathyrus* spp.)  
Nectar: Legumes, flower nectar and mud.

**DORCUS COPPER** (*Lycaena dorcus*)

Hosts: Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), Other Cinquefoils (*Potentilla* spp.)  
Nectar: Cinquefoil (*Potentilla* spp.), and Composites.

**BRONZE COPPER** (*Hylolycaena hyllus*)

Hosts: Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Swamp Dock (*Rumex verticillatus*), Broad Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Swamp Smartweed (*Polygonium coccineum*)  
Nectar: Blue Flag Iris (*Iris* spp.), Wild Blue Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

**HICKORY HAIRSTREAK** (*Satyrrium caryaevorus*)

Hosts: Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Hickory (*Carya* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.)  
Nectar: Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), Sumac (*Rhus* spp.), Spreading Dogbane (*Apocynum* spp.)

**CORAL HAIRSTREAK** (*Satyrrium titus*)

Hosts: Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*)  
Nectar: Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

**STRIPED HAIRSTREAK** (*Satyrrium calanus*)

Hosts: Wild Cherry (*Prunus* spp.), Apple (*Malus* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), Blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), Birch (*Betula* spp.), Poplar/Aspen (*Populus* spp.), and more.

**BANDED HAIRSTREAK** (*Satyrrium calanus*)

Hosts: Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Hickory (*Carya* spp.), Walnut (*Juglans* spp.), Maple (*Acer* spp.), Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)  
Nectar: Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), Sumac (*Rhus* spp.), Dogbane (*Apocynum* spp.)

**ORANGE SULPHUR** (*Colias eurytheme*)

Hosts: Clover (*Trifolium* spp.), Crown-vetch (*Coronilla varia*), Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba & officinalis*), Wild Pea (*Lathyrus* spp.), Vetch (*Vicia americana & cracca*),  
Nectar: Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), Clover (*Trifolium* spp.), Dogwood (*Cornus* spp.), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

**CABBAGE WHITE** (*Pieris rapae*)

Hosts: Cabbage Family (*Cruciferae*), Winter Cress (*Barbarea vulgaris*), Charlock (*Brassica kaber*), Toothwort (*Dentaria diphylla*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria officinalis*)  
Nectar: Crucifers and Nasturtiums

**WEST VIRGINIA WHITE** (*Pieris virginianensis*)

Hosts: Toothwort (*Dentaria diphylla*), Cut-Leaved Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), Cress (*Sardamine* spp.), Brassica spp.  
Nectar: Flower nectar and mud.

**DELAWARE SKIPPER** (*Atytone delaware*)

Hosts: Woolly Beardgrass (*Erianthus divericatus*), Bluestem (*Andropogon* spp.), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

**LEONARD'S SKIPPER** (*Hesperia leonardus*)

Hosts: Grasses, Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)  
Nectar: Misc. flower nectar, Dotted Blazing Star (*Liatris punctata*), Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe triangulata*)

**INDIAN SKIPPER** (*Hesperia sassacus*)

Hosts: Grasses, Bluestem (*Andropogon* spp.), Fescue (*Festuca* spp.), Crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

**LONG DASH SKIPPER** (*Polites mystic*)

Hosts: Various grasses

**ARCTIC SKIPPER** (*Carterocephalus palaemon*)

Hosts: Brome Grass (*Bromus* spp.)  
Nectar: Wild Iris (*Iris* spp.), Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium* spp.)

**HOBOMOK SKIPPER** (*Poanes hobomok*)

Hosts: Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*)

**LEAST SKIPPERING** (*Ancyloxypha numitor*)

Hosts: Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Bluegrass (*Poa* spp.), Wild Rice (*Oryza sativa*)

**NORTHERN CLOUDYWING** (*Thorybes pylades*)

Hosts: Clover (*Trifolium* spp.), misc. Legumes.

**JUVENAL'S DUSKYWING** (*Erynnis juvenalis*)

Hosts: Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Nectar: Misc. flower nectar, dung, mud.

**DREAMY or ASPEN DUSKYWING** (*Erynnis icelus*)

Hosts: Willow (*Salix* spp.)

Poplar/Aspen (*Populus* spp.). Birch (*Betula* spp.)

Nectar: Flower nectar and mud.

**SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER** (*Epargyreus clarus*)

Hosts: Legumes, Locust (*Robinia* spp.)

Tick-Trefoil (*Desmodium* spp.)

Nectar: Many species of wild and domestic flowers.

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