



UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory

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Native and Non-Native* Caterpillar Host Plants for Showy Butterfly Species

In order for butterfly populations to survive, their young (the caterpillars) must have plants to eat. Unlike moth caterpillars, the caterpillars of most butterfly species are found at low enough densities that they do not totally defoliate their host plant. Non-native host plants are indicated by an asterisk.

<u>Caterpillar Host Plants</u>	<u>Butterfly</u>
Asters	Pearl Crescent
Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>) (other <i>Prunus</i> also used)	Coral Hairstreak (on Wild Plum) Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Red-spotted Purple Striped Hairstreak (on Wild Plum)
Carrot Family including Queen Anne’s Lace* and many herb garden plants, e.g., Parsley*, Fennel*, and Dill*	Black Swallowtail caterpillars cause heavy defoliation
Common Lilac*	Tiger Swallowtail
Curled Dock* (<i>Rumex crispus</i>)	American Copper
Dogwood (<i>Comus spp.</i>)	Spring Azure, Common Blue
Eastern Red-cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>) (usually stands, not single trees)	Juniper (Olive) Hairstreak
Everlastings (including <i>Anaphilis margaritacea</i> , <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>) and other Composites	American Lady
New Jersey Tea (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>)	Spring Azure, Common Blue
Lamb’s-quarters* (<i>Chenopodium album</i>) (generally regarded as a weed)	Common Sootywing
Lupine* (<i>Lupinus</i>) (the only Connecticut native Lupine is Wild Lupine [<i>Lupinus perennis</i>])	Eastern Tailed Blue
Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias spp.</i>)	Monarch

Nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp. [some native, some not]), e.g., False Nettle (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>) e.g., Wood Nettle (<i>Laportea canadensis</i>)	Eastern Comma Question Mark Red Admiral
Oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)	Banded Hairstreak Edward's Hairstreak Juvenal's Duskywing Red Spotted Purple
Pea Family including many non-native species, such as Clovers*, Sweet-clovers* and Alfalfa*	Clouded Sulphur Eastern Tailed Blue Orange Sulphur Silver-spotted Skipper
Purpletop (=Tall Redtop; <i>Tridens flavens</i>) (an often-planted native bunchgrass considered to be an aggressive weed by some sources)	Common Wood Nymph also Crossline Skipper Little Glassywing Zabulon Skipper (Note: the Skippers are not strongly showy)
Sassafras tree (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)	Spicebush Swallowtail
Sheep-sorrel* (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>) (generally regarded as a weed)	American Copper
Snapdragon* (<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>)	Common Buckeye
Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)	Spicebush Swallowtail
Tulip-tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Turtlehead (<i>Chelone glabra</i>)	Baltimore Checkerspot
Viburnum (<i>Viburnum</i> spp.)	Spring Azure, Common Blue
Violets (<i>Viola</i> spp. - most are native)	Fritillaries
Willows (<i>Salix</i> spp., scrubby ones; some*)	Viceroy Mourning Cloak
Wild False Foxgloves Baltimore <i>Aureolaria</i> (formerly <i>Gerardia</i>) <i>flava</i> <i>Aureolaria</i> (formerly <i>Gerardia</i>) <i>pedicularia</i> <i>Aureolaria</i> (formerly <i>Gerardia</i>) <i>virginica</i>	Checkerspot

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