



40+ Native Plants for Butterflies - Full Sun to Part Sun

For areas with dry to average soil moisture

If you're unsure what kind of conditions you have, visit [Quick Start - Choosing Plants](#)

Butterflies Depend on Native Plants!

Butterflies and other insects can only lay their eggs and feed their young on specific native plants that they evolved with. These plants are called **Host Plants** as they host the butterflies' eggs and feed caterpillars before they transition into butterflies. Non-native plants cannot host butterfly eggs or feed caterpillars the way that native plants do.

Butterflies and moths are very closely related, so we have included moths when we discuss butterfly host plants.

Tips for Attracting Butterflies:

🦋 Add **host plants** and **adult nectar plants** to maximize the amount of butterflies you are attracting. When thinking of host plants, consider the volume of shrubs and trees. For example, Oak trees can host 400+ types of butterfly and moth species. Their large size allows them to provide a great amount of food for hungry caterpillars.

🦋 Try to add in a mix of species that flower in the spring, summer, and fall to provide food resources all year. Plants that bloom in early spring or late fall when butterflies are migrating are especially valuable food resources.

🦋 Bunchgrasses add shelter and help support wildflowers above and underground. Grasses help wildflowers stand upright and flower more. Many grasses also serve as host plants!

🦋 Omit mosquito spray services that hurt pollinators. Reduce harsh chemicals like fertilizers and herbicides that impact sensitive ecosystems.

🦋 Leave fallen leaves and spent flower stems. Many butterflies, bees, fireflies, and moths depend on them!

This list is not all inclusive. All native plants support insects and play a role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

40+ Native Plants for Butterflies

Full Sun to Part Sun, Dry to Average Soil Moisture

KEY - 🌿 Host Plant 🦋 Adult Food Source

Grasses:

- 🌿 Elliott's Lovegrass, *Eragrostis elliottii*
- 🌿 Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- 🌿 Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*
- 🦋 Pink Muhly Grass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*

Perennial Groundcovers:

- 🦋🌿 Sunshine Mimosa, *Mimosa strigillosa*
- 🦋 Juniper Leaf, *Polypremum procumbens*
- 🦋 Narrowleaf Silkgrass, *Pityopsis graminifolia*
- 🦋 Meadow Beauty, *Rhexia mariana var. Exalbida*

Perennial Flowers:

- 🦋🌿 Lanceleaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*
- 🦋🌿 Narrowleaf Ironweed, *Vernonia angustifolia*
- 🦋🌿 Sweet Goldenrod, *Solidago odora*
- 🦋🌿 Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*
- 🦋🌿 Graceful Blazing Star, *Liatris gracilis*
- 🦋 White Boneset, *Eupatorium album*
- 🦋 Lanceleaf Blanketflower, *Gaillardia aestivalis*
- 🦋 Doll's Daisy, *Boltonia diffusa*
- 🦋 Leavenworth's Coreopsis, *Coreopsis leavenworthii*
- 🦋 Blue Sage, *Salvia azurea*
- 🦋 Skullcap, *Scutellaria sp.*
- 🦋🌿 Vanilla Leaf, *Trilisa odoratissima*
- 🦋🌿 Blackeye Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*
- 🦋🌿 Many Flower Beardtongue, *Penstemon multiflorus*
- 🦋🌿 American Asters, *Symphotrichum sp.*

Vines:

- 🦋🌿 Purple Pasison Vine, *Passiflora incarnata*
- 🦋🌿 Coral Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*
- 🦋🌿 Spurred Butterfly Pea, *Centrosema virginianum*
- 🦋🌿 Dutchman's Pipevine, *Aristolochia tomentosa*

Shrubs:

- 🦋🌿 Scarlet Calamint, *Calamintha coccinea*
- 🦋🌿 Georgia Savory Hybrid, *Calamintha sp.*
- 🌿 Coontie, *Zamia pumila*
- 🦋 Simpson's Stopper, *Myrcianthes fragrans*

Trees:

- 🦋🌿 White Oak, *Quercus alba*
- 🦋🌿 Sand Live Oak, *Quercus geminata*
- 🦋🌿 Post Oak, *Quercus stellata*
- 🦋🌿 Myrtle Oak, *Quercus myrtifolia*
- 🌿 River Birch, *Betula nigra*
- 🌿 Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*
- 🦋🌿 Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*
- 🦋🌿 Pignut Hickory, *Carya glabra*
- 🦋🌿 Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*
- 🦋🌿 American Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*
- 🌿 Longleaf Pine, *Pinus palustris*
- 🦋🌿 Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*

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🐛 Elliott's Lovegrass
Eragrostis elliottii



🐛 Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium



🐛 Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum



🦋 Pink Muhly Grass
Muhlenbergia capillaris



🦋 🐛 Sunshine Mimosa
Mimosa strigillosa



🦋 Juniper Leaf
Polypremum procumbens



🦋 Narrowleaf
Silkgrass
Pityopsis graminifolia



🦋 Meadow Beauty
Rhexia mariana var. Exalbida



🦋 LanceLeaf
Coreopsis
Coreopsis lanceolata



🦋 🐛 Narrowleaf
Ironweed
Vernonia angustifolia



🦋 🐛 Sweet Goldenrod
Solidago odora



🦋 🐛 Rattlesnake
Master
Eryngium yuccifolium



 **Graceful Blazing Star**
Liatris gracilis



 **White Boneset**
Eupatorium album



 **Lanceleaf Blanketflower**
Gaillardia aestivalis



 **Doll's Daisy**
Boltonia diffusa



 **Leavenworth's Coreopsis**
Coreopsis leavenworthii



 **Blue Sage**
Salvia azurea



 **Skullcap**
Scutellaria sp.



 **Vanilla Leaf**
Trilisa odoratissima



 **Blackeye Susan**
Rudbeckia hirta



 **Many Flower Beardtongue**
Penstemon multiflorus



 **Crownbeard**
Verbesina aristata



 **American Asters,**
Symphotrichum sp.



Native Vines and Shrubs for Butterflies
Full Sun to Part Sun - Dry to Average Soil Moisture

KEY - 🐛 Host Plant 🦋 Adult Food Source

🦋 🐛 **Purple Pasison Vine**
Passiflora incarnata



🦋 🐛 **Coral Honeysuckle**
Lonicera sempervirens



🦋 🐛 **Spurred Butterfly Pea**
Centrosema virginianum



🦋 🐛 **Dutchman's Pipevine**
Aristolochia tomentosa



🦋 **Scarlet Calamint**
Calamintha coccinea



🦋 **Georgia Savory Hybrid**
Calamintha sp.



🐛 **Coontie**
Zamia pumila



🦋 **Simpson's Stopper**
Myrcianthes fragrans



Native Trees for Butterflies

Full Sun to Part Sun - Dry to Average Soil Moisture

KEY - 🐛 Host Plant 🦋 Adult Food Source

🦋 🐛 **White Oak**
Quercus alba



🦋 🐛 **Sand Live Oak**
Quercus geminata



🦋 🐛 **Post Oak**
Quercus stellata



🦋 🐛 **Myrtle Oak**
Quercus myrtifolia



🐛 **River Birch**
Betula nigra



🐛 **Bald Cypress**
Taxodium Distichum



🦋 🐛 **Black Gum**
Nyssa sylvatica



🦋 🐛 **Pignut Hickory**
Carya glabra



🦋 🐛 **Red Maple**
Acer rubrum



🦋 🐛 **American Persimmon**
Diospyros Virginiana



🐛 **Longleaf Pine**
Pinus palustris



🦋 🐛 **Black Cherry**
Prunus serotina

