



40+ Part Sun to Shade Plants for Butterflies

For areas with dry to average soil moisture.

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

Many plants increase flowering with the more sun they receive, but some plants will still flower in shaded areas and benefit butterflies!

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 and 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 flower in early spring or late fall when little else is flowering 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 are also butterfly 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, 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

Part Sun to Shade, Dry to Average Soil Moisture

KEY - 🌿 Host Plant 🦋 Adult Food Source

Grasses:

- 🌿 Inland Sea Oats, *Chasmanthium latifolium*
- 🌿 Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*

Perennial Groundcovers:

- 🦋 Lyre Leaf Sage, *Salvia lyrata*
- 🦋 Elephant's Foot, *Elephantopus tomentosus*
- 🦋🌿 Common Blue Violet, *Viola sororia*
- 🦋🌿 Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*
- 🦋🌿 Swamp Twinflower, *Dyschoriste humistrata*
- 🦋🌿 Oblongleaf Twinflower, *Dyschoriste oblongifolia*
- 🦋🌿 White Wood Aster, *Eurybia divaricata*
- 🦋 Blue Moon Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*
- 🦋 Narrowleaf Silkgrass, *Pityopsis graminifolia*
- 🦋 Golden Packera, *Packera aurea*

Perennial Flowers:

- 🦋🌿 Golden Alexander, *Zizia aurea*
- 🦋🌿 Narrowleaf Ironweed, *Vernonia angustifolia*
- 🦋🌿 Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod, *Solidago rugosa*
- 🦋🌿 Wild Petunia, *Ruellia caroliniensis*
- 🦋🌿 Blackeye Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*
- 🦋 Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*
- 🦋 Stoke's Aster, *Stokesia laevis*
- 🦋 Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*
- 🦋 Snow Squarestem, *Melanthera nivea*
- 🦋 Eastern Smooth Beardtongue, *Penstemon laevigatus*
- 🦋 Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*
- 🦋 Blue Mist Flower, *Conoclinium coelestinum*

Vines:

- 🦋🌿 Yellow Pasion Vine, *Passiflora lutea*
- 🌿 Florida Milkvine, *Matelea floridana*
- 🦋🌿 Climbing Aster, *Ampelaster carolinianus*
- 🦋 Yellow Jessamine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*

Shrubs:

- 🌿 Coontie, *Zamia pumila*
- 🌿🦋 Arrowwood Viburnum, *Viburnum dentatum*
- 🌿🦋 Possumhaw Viburnum, *Viburnum nudum*
- 🦋 Scarlet Calamint, *Calamintha coccinea*
- 🦋 Georgia Savory Hybrid, *Calamintha sp.*
- 🦋 Pinxter Azalea, *Rhododendron canescens*
- 🦋 Florida Flame Azalea, *Rhododendron austrinum*
- 🦋 Coastal Doghobble, *Leucothoe axillaris*

Trees:

- 🌿 Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*
- 🌿🦋 Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*
- 🌿🦋 Sparkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*
- 🌿🦋 Myrtle Oak, *Quercus myrtifolia*
- 🌿🦋 Sand Live Oak, *Quercus geminata*
- 🌿🦋 American Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*
- 🌿🦋 Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*
- 🌿🦋 Pignut Hickory, *Carya glabra*

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🐛 **Inland Sea Oats**
Chasmanthium latifolium



🐛 **Switchgrass**
Panicum virgatum



🦋 **Lyre Leaf Sage**
Salvia lyrata



🦋 **Elephant's Foot**
Elephantopus tomentosus



🦋🐛 **Common Blue Violet**
Viola sororia



🦋🐛 **Wild Strawberry**
Fragaria virginiana



🦋🐛 **Swamp Twinflower**
Dyschoriste humistrata



🦋🐛 **Oblongleaf Twinflower**
Dyschoriste oblongifolia



🦋🐛 **White Wood Aster**
Eurybia divaricata



🦋🐛 **Blue Moon Phlox**
Phlox divaricata



🦋🐛 **Narrowleaf Silkgrass**
Pityopsis graminifolia



🦋🐛 **Golden Packera**
Packera aurea



🦋🌿 **Golden Alexander**
Zizia aurea



🦋🌿 **Narrowleaf Ironweed**
Vernonia angustifolia



🦋🌿 **Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod**
Solidago rugosa



🦋🌿 **Wild Petunia**
Ruellia caroliniensis



🦋🌿 **Blackeye Susan**
Rudbeckia hirta



🦋 **Wild Columbine**
Aquilegia canadensis



🦋 **Stoke's Aster**
Stokesia laevis



🦋 **Purple Coneflower**
Echinacea purpurea



🦋 **Snow Squarestem**
Melanthera nivea



🦋 **Eastern Smooth Beardtongue**
Penstemon laevigatus



🦋 **Spiderwort,**
Tradescantia ohiensis



🦋 **Blue Mistflower**
Conoclinium coelestinum



Native Vines and Shrubs for Butterflies
Part Sun to Shade, Dry to Average Soil Moisture

KEY - 🐛 Host Plant 🦋 Adult Food Source

🦋🐛 **Yellow Pasion Vine**
Passiflora lutea



🐛 **Florida Milkvine**
Matelea floridana



🦋🐛 **Climbing Aster**
Ampelaster carolinianus



🦋 **Yellow Jessamine**
Gelsemium sempervirens



🐛 **Coontie**
Zamia pumila



🐛🦋 **Arrowwood Viburnum**
Viburnum dentatum



🐛🦋 **Possumhaw Viburnum**
Viburnum nudum



🦋 **Scarlet Calamint**
Calamintha coccinea



🦋 **Georgia Savory Hybrid**
Calamintha sp.



🦋 **Pinxter Azalea**
Rhododendron canescens



🦋 **Florida Flame Azalea**
Rhododendron austrinum



🦋 **Coastal Doghobble**
Leucothoe axillaris



Native Trees for Butterflies

Part Sun to Shade, Dry to Average Soil Moisture

KEY - 🐛 Host Plant 🦋 Adult Food Source

🐛 Pawpaw
Asimina triloba



🐛🦋 Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis



🐛🦋 Sparkleberry
Vaccinium arboreum



🦋🐛 Myrtle Oak
Quercus myrtifolia



🦋🐛 Sand Live Oak
Quercus geminata



🦋🐛 American Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana



🐛🦋 Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana



🦋🐛 Pignut Hickory
Carya glabra

