

## Prepared for USFWS Stewart B. McKinney NWR and Connecticut Audubon Society.

### Butterfly host plant list for Connecticut butterflies.

Caterpillar host plants are one of the best ways to attract butterflies to your property or garden. Some species of butterfly can detect host plants on which they lay their eggs from quite a distance away. Some male butterflies are attracted to the plants in order to find mates. Addition of some host plants to your property can greatly increase visits by adult butterflies to nectar plants and feeding/salting stations. Native species are indicated, as there is currently some concern about non-native plants escaping into wild areas. Planting native species can eliminate any risk of facilitating the spread of invasive plants.

1. Milkweed Spp.(*Asclepias spp*) **some native**. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
  - a. Common milkweed (*Asclepius syriaca*).**native**. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
  - b. Showy milkweed (*A. speciosa*).**native**. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
  - c. White milkweed (*A. variegata*).**native**. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
2. Butterfly weed(*Asclepias tuberosa*)**native**. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
3. Swamp milkweed(*A. incarnata*)**native**. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
4. Whorled milkweed(*A. verticillata*)**native**. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)
5. Dill(*Anethum graveolens*). Black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*)
6. Parsley(*Petroselinum crispum*). Black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*)
7. Spicebush(*Lindera benzoin*)**native**. Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*), Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*)
8. Paw Paw(*Asimina spp.*)**possibly native, mainly from midwest**. Zebra swallowtail(*Eurytides marcellus*)
9. Cherry, plum, chokecherry(*Prunus spp*) **many native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), coral hairstreak (*Satyrium titus*)
10. Hackberry(*Celtis occidentalis*)**native**. 'Bachmanni' American snout (*Libytheana carinenta* bachmanni), question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), 'Astyanax' red-spotted purple (*Limenitis [Basilarchia] arthemis astyanax*), hackberry emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*), Tawny emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*)
11. Cosmos(*Cosmos sulphureus*, *C. bipinnatus*). Black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*), silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
12. Citrus Spp. Giant swallowtail(*Papilio cresphontes*), black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*)
13. Asters, asteraceae, **some native**. Silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
14. New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)**native**. Silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
15. Hops(*Humulus lupulus*)**native**. Question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*)
16. Pipevine(*Aristolochia durior*)**native**. Pipevine swallowtail(*Battus philenor*)
17. Queen Anne's Lace(*Daucus carota var. carota*). Black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
18. Sweet Bay(*Laurus nobilis*, *magnolia virginiana*(**native**)). Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio*

*glaucus*), Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)

19. Red Bay(*Persea borbona*).Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)

20. Tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)**native**.Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)

21. Turtlehead(*Chelone glabra*)**native**. Baltimore (*Euphydryas phaeton*)

22. Nettles (*Urtica spp.* *Lamium spp.*) some **native**.Question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), Milbert's tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis milberti*), Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

a. Wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*). Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

c. (*Urtica procera*). Milbert's tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis milberti*), Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

d. Tall wild nettle (*U. gracilis*). Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

23. Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*)**native, dangerous for human contact**.Question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), Milbert's tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis milberti*)

24. Gooseberry(*Ribes americanum*)**native**.

25. Sunflowers(*Helianthus spp.*). Silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

26. Violets(*Viola spp.*)**many native**. Great spangled fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*)

27. Cassia(*Cassia fasciculata*, *C. hebecarpa*)**native**. Painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

28. Mustard Greens(*Brassica juncea*).Checkered white (*Pontia protodice*), cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*)

29. Legumes (*Leguminosae*)**many native**. Painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*)

30. Wisteria(*Wisteria spp.*). Painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*)

31. Alfalfa(*Medicago sativa*).Clouded sulphur (*Colias philodice*), orange sulphur (*Colias eurythem*), Eastern tailed-blue (*Everes comyntas*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

32. Cresses:

a. American cress (*Barbarea verna*).Falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*), whites, sulfurs

b. Garden cress (*Lepidium sativum*).Falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*), whites, sulfurs

c. Garlic cress (*Peltaria alliacea*) .Falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*), whites, sulfurs

d. Meadow cress (*Cardamine pratensis*)**native**.Falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*),whites, sulfurs

e. Rock cress (*Arabis drummondii*)**native**. Falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*), whites, sulfurs

f. Stone cress (*Aethionema spp.*).Falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*), whites, sulfurs

g. Winter cress (*Barbaria vulgaris*). Falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*),whites, sulfurs

33. Everlastings(*Anaphalis spp.*). Silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

a. Sweet everlasting (*Gnaphalium obtusifolium*)**native?**, American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

- b. Pearly everlasting(*Anaphlis margaritacea*)**native**. American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
34. Thistles (*Cirsium spp*). Silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
35. Mallows(*Hibiscus spp*, *Hibiscus moscheutos* swamp rose, **native**). American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
36. Hollyhocks(*Alcea rose*). American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
37. Dogbane(*Apocynum androsaemifolia*, *A. cannabinum*,)**native**. butterfly host?
38. New Jersey Tea(*Ceanthus americanus*)**native**. Spring azure (*Celastrina ladon*)
39. Green cabbage (*Brassica oleracea capitata*). Checkered white (*Pontia protodice*), cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*)
40. Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea italica*). Black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*), Checkered white (*Pontia protodice*), cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*)
41. Bronze fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*). Black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*)
42. Other fennels. Black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*)
43. Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) **native**. Pipevine swallowtail(*Battus philenor*)
44. Prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*). **Native**. Giant swallowtail(*Papilio cresphontes*), black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*)
45. Hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*). **native**. Giant swallowtail(*Papilio cresphontes*), black swallowtail(*Papilio polyxenes*)
46. Birch (*Betula spp*).**some native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Compton tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis vau-album*), viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
- a. Gray birch (*Betula populifolia*)**native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Compton tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis vau-album*)
- b. Paper birch (*B. papyrifera*)**native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Compton tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis vau-album*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
- c. Black birch (*B. lenta*, *B. nigra*)**both native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Compton tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis vau-album*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
47. Ash (*Fraxinus spp*).**some native** Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), hickory hairstreak (*Satyrium caryaevorum*)
48. Aspens and Cottonwood (*Populus*)**native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Compton tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis vau-album*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
49. Mountain ash (*Sorbus spp*)**some native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*)
50. Willows (*Salix spp*)**some native**. Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Acadian hairstreak (*Satyrium acadica*), Compton tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis vau-album*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
- a. Black willow (*Salix nigra*) **native**. Acadian hairstreak (*Satyrium acadica*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
- b. Silk willow (*Salix sericea*)**native**. Acadian hairstreak (*Satyrium acadica*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
- c. Weeping willow (*S. babylonica*). Mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), viceroy (*Limenitis*

*archippus*)

51. Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) **native**. Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)
52. Prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*) **native**. Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)
53. Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*). Spicebush Swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*)
54. Mustard family (*Brassicaceae*) **some native**. Checkered white (*Pontia protodice*), (West Virginia White (*Pieris virginianensis*), cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*), falcate orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*)
55. Caper family (*Capparidaceae*) **some native**. Checkered white (*Pontia protodice*), Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*)
56. Toothworts (*Dentaria diphylla* and *D. laciniata*) **both native**. West Virginia white (*Pieris virginianensis*)
57. White clover (*Trifolium repens*). Clouded sulphur (*Colias philodice*), orange sulphur (*Colias eurythem*), Eastern tailed-blue (*Everes comyntas*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
58. Pea (*Pisum sativum*). Clouded sulphur (*Colias philodice*), orange sulphur (*Colias eurythem*), frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus*), Eastern tailed-blue (*Everes comyntas*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), Northern cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)
59. White sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*). Orange sulphur (*Colias eurythem*), Eastern tailed-blue (*Everes comyntas*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), Northern cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)
60. Partridge pea (*Cassia fasciculata*) **native**. Little yellow (*Eurema lisa*), Eastern tailed-blue (*Everes comyntas*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), Northern cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)
61. Wild sensitive plant (*C. nictans*) **native**. Little yellow (*Eurema lisa*), Eastern tailed-blue (*Everes comyntas*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
62. Grasses. **many native** Grass skippers (Subfamily Hesperinae), Northern Pearly Eye (*Enodia anhedon*), Common ringlet (*Coenonympha tullia*), Common wood nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*).
63. Aphids from alders, witch hazel, ash, beech, hawthorn, and wild currant. Harvester (*Feniseca tarquinius*).
64. buckwheat (Polygonaceae) **some native** family. American copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*), bronze copper (*Lycaena hyllus*)
  - a. sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) **native but invasive**. American copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)
  - b. curled dock (*Rumex crispus*). American copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)
  - c. (*Oxyria digyna*) **native**. American copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*), bronze copper (*Lycaena hyllus*)
65. Shrubby cranberries in the heath family (Ericaceae) **some native**. Bog copper (*Lycaena epixanthe*)
66. Rose family (Rosaceae). Coral hairstreak (*Satyrium titus*), striped hairstreak (*Satyrium liparops*). **Multiflora rose (*rosa multiflora*) is very invasive. Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasias*) is also invasive.**
67. Oaks (*Quercus spp.*) **many native**. Banded hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*), white m hairstreak (*Parrhasius m-album*)
  - a. Scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) **native**. Edwards' hairstreak (*Satyrium edwardsii*), hickory hairstreak (*Satyrium caryaevorum*)
  - b. Black oak (*Q. velutina*) **native**. Edwards' hairstreak (*Satyrium edwardsii*)
  - c. Live oak (*Q. virginiana*). White m hairstreak (*Parrhasius m-album*)
  - d. White oak (*Q. alba*) **native**. Banded hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*), white m hairstreak (*Parrhasius m-album*)

- e. Red oak (*Q. rubra*) **native**. Banded hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*), white m hairstreak (*Parrhasius m-album*)
68. Walnut (*Juglans spp.*) **some native**. Banded hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*)
69. Hickory (*Carya spp.*) **some native**. Banded hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*), hickory hairstreak (*Satyrium caryaevorum*)
70. Chestnuts (*Castanea*) **some native**. Hickory hairstreak (*Satyrium caryaevorum*)
71. Heath (Ericaceae) family **some native**. Striped hairstreak (*Satyrium liparops*), brown elfin (*Callophrys augustinus*), hoary elfin (*Callophrys polios*)
- a. Sugar huckleberry (*Vaccinium vacillans*) **native**. Brown elfin (*Callophrys augustinus*)
- b. Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) **native**. Brown elfin (*Callophrys augustinus*)
- c. Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) **native**. Hoary elfin (*Callophrys polios*)
72. Wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*) **native**. Frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
73. Blue false indigo (*B. australis*) **native**. Frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus*), hoary edge (*Achalarus lyciades*)
74. Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) **native**. Frosted elfin (*Callophrys irus*)
75. Scrub pine (*Pinus virginiana*) **native**. Eastern pine elfin (*Callophrys niphon*)
76. Jack pine (*P. banksiana*) **native**. Eastern pine elfin (*Callophrys niphon*)
77. Soft white pine (*P. strobus*) **native**. Eastern pine elfin (*Callophrys niphon*)
78. Redcedar: (*Juniperus virginiana*) **native**. Juniper hairstreak (*Callophrys gryneus*)
79. Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) **native**. Spring azure (*Celastrina ladon*)
80. Meadowsweet (*Spiraea salicifolia*). Spring azure (*Celastrina ladon*)
81. Many compositae. **some native** Silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
82. Flat-topped white aster (*Aster umbellatus*) **native**. Harris' checkerspot (*Chlosyne harrisii*), silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
83. True asters including (*Aster pilosus*, *A. texanus*, and *A. laevis* **native**). Pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*), silvery checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
84. Hairy beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*). Baltimore (*Euphydryas phaeton*)
85. Plantain family including plantains (*Plantago*) and English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). Baltimore (*Euphydryas phaeton*), Common buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)
86. Arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum*, *V. rafinesquianum*) **native**. Baltimore (*Euphydryas phaeton*)
87. American elm (*Ulmus americanus*) **native**. Question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
88. Red elm (*Ulmus rubra*) **native**. Question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
89. Japanese hop (*Humulus japonicus*) **possibly invasive**. Question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
90. False nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*). Question mark (*Polygonia interrogationi*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
91. Plantain-leaved pussy toes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*) **native**. American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
92. Wormwood (*Artemisia*) **some native**. American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady

(*Vanessa cardui*)

93. Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)**native**. American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
94. Burdock (*Arctium*). American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
95. Pellitory (*Parietaria pennsylvanica*)**native?**. Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
96. Mamaki (*Pipturus albidus*). Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
97. Snapdragon family
  - a. Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*). Common buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)
  - b. Toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*)**native**. Common buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)
98. Acanthus family including ruellia (*Ruellia nodiflora*). Common buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)
99. Sugarberry and other *Celtis* (*Celtis laevigata*). 'Bachmanni' American snout (*Libytheana carinenta*) bachmanni), question mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*), Eastern Comma (*Polygonia comma*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), 'Asteranax' red-spotted purple (*Limenitis [Basilarchia] arthemis astyanax*), hackberry emperor (*Asterocampa celtis*), Tawny emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*)
  - a. *C. tenuifolia*. Tawny emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*)
  - b. *C. lindheimeri*. Tawny emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*)
  - c. *C. reticulata*. Tawny emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*)
100. Various sedges in the sedge family (Cyperaceae)**some native**. Eyed brown (*Satyrodes eurydice*), Appalachian brown (*Satyrodes appalachia*)
  - a. *Carex stricta*. Eyed brown (*Satyrodes eurydice*), Appalachian brown (*Satyrodes appalachia*)
  - b. *C. lupulina*. Eyed brown (*Satyrodes eurydice*), Appalachian brown (*Satyrodes appalachia*)
  - c. *C. bromoides*. Eyed brown (*Satyrodes eurydice*), Appalachian brown (*Satyrodes appalachia*)
  - d. *C. trichocarpa*. Eyed brown (*Satyrodes eurydice*), Appalachian brown (*Satyrodes appalachia*)
  - e. Sedge (*Carex lacustris*). Appalachian brown (*Satyrodes appalachia*)
  - f. Giant sedge (*Rhynchospora inundata*). Appalachian brown (*Satyrodes appalachia*)
101. Orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*). Little wood satyr (*Megisto cymela*)
102. Centipede grass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*). Little wood satyr (*Megisto cymela*)
103. Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*). Common wood nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*).
104. Beggar's ticks (*Desmodium canadense*)**native**. Hoary edge (*Achalarus lyciades*), Northern cloudywing (*Thorybes pylades*)
105. Bush clovers, (*Lespedeza* spp.) Native. Eastern Tailed-blue, Gray Hairstreak.

#### References:

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