

## ***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**

### **CATERPILLAR HOST PLANTS**

Asters

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)  
(other *Prunus* also used)

Carrot Family including Queen Anne's Lace\* and  
many herb garden plants, e.g., Parsley\*, Fennel\*,  
and Dill\*

Common Lilac\*

Curled Dock\* (*Rumex crispus*)

Dogwood (*Cornus spp.*)

Eastern Red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)  
(usually stands, not single trees)

Everlastings (including *Anaphalis margaritacea*,  
*Antennaria plantaginifolia*) and other Composites

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

Lamb's-quarters\* (*Chenopodium album*)  
(generally regarded as a weed)

Lupine\* (*Lupinus*)  
(the only CT native Lupine is  
Wild Lupine [*Lupinus perennis*])

Milkweeds (*Asclepias spp.*)

### **BUTTERFLY**

Pearl Crescent

Coral Hairstreak (on Wild Plum)  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
Red-spotted Purple  
Striped Hairstreak (on Wild Plum)

Black Swallowtail  
*caterpillars cause heavy defoliation*

Tiger Swallowtail

American Copper

Spring Azure, Common Blue

Juniper (Olive) Hairstreak

American Lady

Spring Azure, Common Blue

Common Sootywing

Eastern Tailed Blue

Monarch

## HOST PLANTS (continued)

Nettles (*Urtica* spp. [some native, some not]),  
False Nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*),  
Wood Nettle (*Laportea canadensis*)

Oaks (*Quercus* spp.)

Pea Family including many non-native species,  
such as Clovers\*, Sweet-clovers\* and Alfalfa\*

Purpletop (=Tall Redtop; *Tridens flavens*)  
(an often-planted native bunchgrass  
considered to be an aggressive weed by some  
sources)

Sassafras tree (*Sassafras albidum*)

Sheep-sorrel\* (*Rumex acetosella*)  
(generally regarded as a weed)

Snapdragon\* (*Antirrhinum majus*)

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

Viburnum (*Viburnum* spp.)

Violets (*Viola* spp. – most are native)

Willows (*Salix* spp., scrubby ones; some \*)

Wild False Foxgloves

*Aureolaria* (formerly *Gerardia*) *flava*  
*Aureolaria* (formerly *Gerardia*) *pedicularia*  
*Aureolaria* (formerly *Gerardia*) *virginica*

## BUTTERFLIES (continued)

Eastern Comma  
Question Mark  
Red Admiral

Banded Hairstreak  
Edward's Hairstreak  
Juvenal's Duskywing  
Red Spotted Purple

Clouded Sulphur  
Eastern Tailed Blue  
Orange Sulphur  
Silver-spotted Skipper

Common Wood Nymph  
also Crossline Skipper  
Little Glassywing  
Zabulon Skipper  
(Note: the Skippers are not strongly showy)

Spicebush Swallowtail

American Copper

Common Buckeye

Spicebush Swallowtail

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Baltimore Checkerspot

Spring Azure, Common Blue

Fritillaries

Viceroy  
Mourning Cloak

Baltimore Checkerspot

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