

SITE REQUIREMENTS OF SOME BUTTERFLY NECTAR PLANTS NATIVE TO CONNECTICUT

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Light	Moisture	Soils	Color	Month	Height	Misc.
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Su-PSu	D-W	acid soil; mineral or peat	White	5-6	6'-12'	slow grower; occurs in abandoned pastures; birds eat fruits
Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Su	D-W	well drained; acid, mineral	White	4-6	6"=24"	birds eat fruits
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Su	(M-) W	in mineral or organic soils	White	6-8	3'-10'	
Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	Su	D-W	tolerates occasional standing water	White	6-9	2'-5'	often in damp meadows
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Su-PSu	D-M	well drained, poor-average	White	6-8	2'-4'	often found in disturbed soil
Steeplebush	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	S	M-W		Pink	7-9	2'-4'	
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Su-PSu	D	well-drained; coarse sand to heavy clay	yellow-green	6-7	2'-20'	fast grower; persistent red fruits; fruits attract birds
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Su-PSu	D-M	well-drained; coarse sand to heavy clay	yellow-green	6-7	max. 40'	fast grower; weedy; hairy, persistent red fruits; birds eat
Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	PSh-Su	M-W	sand to muck, clays	White	7-8	6'-12'	slow to medium growth
Pinxter-flower	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Su-PSu	D-W	acidic mineral soils; and sandy peat	Pinkish	4-5	2'-7'	best on peat soils
Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Su-PSh	W	acid soil; mineral, peat, or muck	White	6-7	6'-12'	tolerates sand to stiff clay soils
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	Su	M-D		White	5-6	max. 35'	birds eat fruits
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i>	Su	D		White	5	max. 90'	birds eat fruits
Heath Aster	<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i> var. <i>ericoides</i>	Su	D	dry, open sites	White	7-10	1'-3'	
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Su-PSu	M(-W)	well drained; tolerates periodic saturation	Purp+Orng	8-10	4'-6'	fast grower but needs average or better soil
New York Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>	Su-PSu	M		Pu to W	8-10	3'-7'	
Smooth Aster	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Su-PSu	D-Average		Bl or Pu	8-10	1'-3'	
Stiff Aster	<i>Ionactis linariifolius</i>	Su	D		Bl-Pur	9-10	6"-18"	flower center goes fr yellow to ornge
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> var. <i>fistulosa</i>	Su-PSh	M	usually on limey soil	Pi-Lav	7-8	2'-3'	aromatic leaves
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Su	D-W	tolerates saturation	White	7-9	4'-6'	in wetlands & uplands
Sweet Goldenrod	<i>Solidago odora</i> var. <i>odora</i>	Su	D-M		Yellow	7-10	2'-4'	
Purple Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> var. <i>purpureum</i>		M-W		Pur/Pk	7-9	3'-10'	
Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> var. <i>maculatum</i>	Su-PSu	M-W		Pink	7-9	2'-6'	meadows and wet thickets
Butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ssp. <i>tuberosa</i> or <i>A. tuberosa</i> ssp. <i>interior</i>	Su	very Dry-D		Orange	6-9	1'-2'	
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Su-PSu	D-M		Pink	6-8	2'-5'	spreads readily
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Su-PSu	M-W	poorly drained; tolerates seasonal saturation	Pink	6-8	2'-4'	

Light: Su=Sun (at least 6 hrs of direct, unfiltered light in midsummer [some references settle for 5 hrs]); PSu=Part Sun (2-5 hours direct sun);

Light (continued): PSh=Part Shade (2-5 hrs direct sun or all-day dappled sun); Sh=Shade (< 2 hrs direct sun)

Moisture: D=dry; M=Moist; W=Wet; **Month:** Months of bloom shown numerically