



# NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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## WESTERN WASHINGTON

by Claire Hagen Dole

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### TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

A number in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Letters in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall). Abbreviations: A = alien species, E = alien in this region but native elsewhere in North America, N = native species.

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
A Lilac <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	10-15'	lavender	S	Swallowtails, Blues	
1 A Pincushion plant <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	1'	pink, lavender/blue	S-X	Many	
A Red valerian <i>Centranthus ruber</i>	2'	red, pink	S-F	Many	
A Sweet William <i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	1'	red, pink, white	S-F	Many, especially Swallowtails	
E Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	2-3'	purple	X	Many	
1 A Lavender <i>Lavandula</i>	1-1½'	purple	X	Western Tiger Swallowtail, Skippers	
A Verbena <i>Verbena</i>	1-5'	purple	X	Many	
N Western mock orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	6'	white	X	Many	
N Aster <i>Aster</i>	1-4'	pink- purple	X-F	Many	
1 A Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	5-8'	white, pink, purple	X-F	Many	Stays green in winter
A French marigold <i>Tagetes patula</i>	1-1½'	yellow, orange, red	X-F	Many, especially Skippers	
A Oregano <i>Origanum</i>	1'	purple	X-F	Cabbage White, Skippers	
A Zinnia <i>Zinnia elegans</i>	1-3'	yellow, orange, red	X-F	Many	
A Sedum 'Autumn Joy' <i>Sedum spectabile</i>	2-3'	dark pink	F	Red Admiral, Skippers	

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### NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORKIN THIS REGION

Abbreviation: E = alien in this region but native elsewhere in North America.

FLOWER	COMMENTS
E Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Soil is too wet here for this plant to grow well.

### TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N	Evergreen huckleberry <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	3-5'	Brown Elfin, Spring Azure	
A	Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	4-5'	Anise Swallowtail	Butterfly may have two generations per year.
A	Hollyhock <i>Alcea rosea</i>	5-6'	West Coast Lady	
N	Lupines <i>Lupinus</i>	4-5'	Silvery Blue	
N	Mallows Malvaceae family	1-2'	Gray Hairstreak, West Coast Lady	
N	Maples <i>Acer</i>	15'+	Western Tiger Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak	
N	Ocean spray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	10-15'	Brown Elfin, Spring Azure, Lorquin's Admiral	
N	Pearly Everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	1½'	Painted Lady	
N	Red osier dogwood <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	4-6'	Spring Azure	Prune to emphasize red color.
N	Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	1½'	Brown Elfin, Spring Azure	
N	Stinging nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>	2-5'	Satyr Comma, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, West Coast Lady, Red Admiral	
N/A	Thistles <i>Carduus, Cirsium</i>	2-5'	Mylitta Crescent, Painted Lady	
N/A	Willows <i>Salix</i>	10-50'	Western Tiger Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak, Lorquin's Admiral	

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# COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

A number in front of a butterfly name indicates a particularly likely species (1 = most expected to be seen). Letters in "FLIGHT PERIOD" correspond to the season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Anise Swallowtail <i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	S-X	Fennel, dill, angelica	Butterfly may have two generations per year.
1 Western Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio rutulus</i>	S-X	Maple, willow, alder, cherry, sycamore	
Pale Swallowtail <i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	S-X	Coffeeberry, ceanothus	
Pine White <i>Neophasia menapia</i>	X-F	Pines, Douglas fir, true fir, deodar cedar	
1 Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	S-F	Mustards, nasturtium	
1 Purplish Copper <i>Lycaena helloides</i>	X-F	Docks, sorrels, knotweeds	
Brown Elfin <i>Callophrys augustinus</i>	S-X	Madrona, azalea, salal, huckleberry	Caterpillars feed on flowers/buds.
Juniper Hairstreak <i>Callophrys gryneus siva</i>	S-X	Incense cedar, western red cedar, cypress, juniper	
1 Spring Azure <i>Celastrina ladon</i>	S-X	Dogwood, salal, madrona, huckleberry	Caterpillars, sometimes tended by ants, feed on flowers/buds.
1 Mylitta Crescent <i>Phyciodes mylitta</i>	S-F	Thistles	
Satyr Comma <i>Polygonia satyrus</i>	S-F	Nettles	
1 Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	S-F	Willow, cottonwood, poplar, elm	
Milbert's Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis milberti</i>	S-F	Nettles	
1 Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	S-F	Thistles, mallows, borage	
1 West Coast Lady <i>Vanessa annabella</i>	S-F	Hollyhock, mallows, nettles	
1 Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	S-X	Nettles, pellitory	
1 Woodland Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i>	X-F	Grasses	

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### LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Letters in "FLIGHT PERIOD" correspond to the season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Clodius Parnassian <i>Parnassius clodius</i>	X	Bleeding heart	Lowlands, foothills
Mustard White <i>Pieris napi</i>	S-X	Mustards, cresses	Moist woods
Sara Orangetip <i>Anthocharis sara</i>	S-X	Mustards	Suburbs
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	S-F	Mallows, mints, corn, strawberry	Suburbs
Silvery Blue <i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>	S-X	Lupines, vetches	Caterpillars attended by ants.
California Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis californica</i>	S	Ceanothus	Occasional immigrant
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	X-F	Milkweeds	Near Columbia River

### GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

The Puget Sound area (Bellingham to Olympia) has annual rainfall of 39". Southwest Washington and the Olympic Peninsula receive up to 120". An Olympia Mountains rain shadow creates a drier climate in Sequim (northeastern edge of the peninsula) and the San Juan Islands. Winter is mild, often cloudy. Summers are hot and dry. Butterflies are in flight from March to November.

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