



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 tel. 973-285-0907 fax 973-285-0936

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

by Kathy Parker

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

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

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Blazingstars <i>Liatriis</i>	3'	pink-purple	summer	Cabbage White Great Spangled Fritillary	
A	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	6'	purple	summer	Cabbage White, Monarch	
N	Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	2'	orange	summer	Great Spangled Fritillary Monarch	Deemed a noxious weed in Ontario.
N	Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	3'	purple	summer	Monarch	Deemed a noxious weed in Ontario.
A	Oriental lily <i>Lilium rubrum</i>	4'	pink	summer	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	
A	Wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace) <i>Daucus carota</i>	3'	white	summer	Black Swallowtail	
N	Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	3'	yellow	summer to fall	Great Spangled Fritillary Pearl Crescent European Skipper	
A	Spotted knapweed <i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	2'	purple	summer to fall	Swallowtails Clouded, Orange Sulphurs Little Yellow, Pearl Crescent, Common Buckeye, Red-spotted Purple, Monarch	Considered an invasive plant in some areas.
N	Spotted joe-pye-weed <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	4'	pink-purple	midsummer to early fall	Great Spangled Fritillary Painted Lady, Viceroy Monarch	Damp areas.
	Puddles				Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
--------	----------

None to mention.

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

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

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N	Asters <i>Aster</i>	2'	Pearl Crescent	Smooth-leaved ones.
A	Cabbage and related vegetables	6"	Cabbage White	
N	Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	3'	Monarch	Deemed a noxious weed in Ontario.
N	Meadowsweet <i>Spiraea</i>	4'	Spring Azure	
A	Parsley and related herbs	6"	Black Swallowtail	
A	Red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	3"	Clouded Sulphur Eastern Tailed-Blue	
N	Shrubby cinquefoil <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	2½'	Dorcas Copper	
A	Tufted vetch <i>Vicia cracca</i>	8"	Silvery Blue	
N	Turtlehead <i>Chelone glabra</i>	2'	Baltimore Checkerspot	in damp areas.
N	Violets <i>Viola</i>	6"	Great Spangled Fritillary	

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	6-9	7-10	Parsley and related herbs	
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio canadensis</i>	6-8		Various deciduous trees	
Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	5-10	6-9	Cabbage and related vegetables	
Eastern Tailed-Blue <i>Everes comyntas</i>	6-9	5-10	Clovers and related plants	
Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	7-9	5-6 and 9 on over winter	Violets	
Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	6-9	5, 7, 9	Asters	

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	6-9	5, 7, 9	Asters	
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	5-6 and 8/9 on over winter	7-8	Willows, poplars, elms, birches	
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	7-8	5-10	Nettles	
Common Wood-Nymph <i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	6-7	5-6 and 9 on over winter	Grasses	
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	6-10	7-9	Milkweeds	A "vulnerable" species in Ontario because milkweeds are deemed "noxious" weeds.
European Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	7-8	6	Grasses	

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>		not a breeding resident species	Hackberry	All of these butterflies are rare and mostly in extreme southwestern Ontario.
Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	7-8	5-6 and 8 on over winter	Hackberry	
Tawny Emperor <i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	7-9	5-6 and 8 on over winter	Hackberry	

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 5

Along the shore of Lake Erie is the Carolinian Zone, which is home to many species with southern affiliations. Extreme southwestern Ontario (Point Pelee, Ojibway Prairie in Windsor, Walpole Island) is known as the "Butterfly Capitol" with numerous peripheral species. The rest of southwestern Ontario is in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest zone.

Copyright © 1998 by the North American Butterfly Association, Inc. All rights reserved.