



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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SOUTHERN HALF OF MAINE

by Gail Everett

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), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month. Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N Blueberries <i>Vaccinium</i>	6-12"	white	S	Sulphurs, Elfins, Blues	
A Orange hawkweed <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	8-24"	orange	<X		
1 A Red clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	6-16"	pink	< & > X	All	Dependably blooms a 2nd time.
3 A Cow vetch <i>Vicia cracca</i>	2-3'	purple	X	Swallowtails, Sulphurs, Blues, Fritillaries, Skippers	Easy to grow.
N Dogbane <i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	1-4'	white	X	Skippers	Valuable if there's no milkweed.
N Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	1-3'	yellow	=X		
2 A Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	1-4'	pink	=X	All, especially Hairstreaks	
A Common burdock <i>Arctium minus</i>	3-5'	pink	>X		
N Goldenrods <i>Solidago</i>	1-4'	yellow	>X	Fritillaries, Monarch	
N Joe-pye-weed <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	2-7'	deep pink	>X	Fritillaries, Monarch	Needs damp ground.
N Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	2-3'	purple	>X	All	Good for dry areas.

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
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none to mention.

President: Jeffrey Glassberg; VP: Ann Swengel; Secretary/Treasurer: Jane V. Scott
Directors: Brian Cassie, Fred Heath, Steven Prchal, Robert Robbins, James Springer, Patricia Sutton, Guy Tudor

SOUTHERN HALF OF MAINE

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

A number in front of a plant name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
	N Asters <i>Aster</i>	1-2'	Harris' Checkerspot, Pearl & Northern Crescents	Requires moist ground; fairly easy to transplant.
	N Black cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	50-75'	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	Caterpillars often on smaller saplings/near ground. Tree is hard to kill!
	A Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	1-4'	Monarch	Easy to grow from seed, but spreads.
1	A Cow vetch <i>Vicia cracca</i>	1-3'	Sulphurs, Eastern Tailed-Blue, Silvery Blue	Easy to grow from seed.
	N Field pussytoes <i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	4-12"	American Lady	Very easy to transplant.
2	N Grasses Family Poaceae	6-24"	Satyrs, Common Ringlet, Grass Skippers	Prefer damper areas, except for bluestem.
	N Low cudweed <i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	4-12"	American Lady	Very easy to transplant.
	N Meadowsweet <i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	6-36"	Spring Azure	Primary food plant for this butterfly in this area. Grow from transplants or cuttings; spreads fast.
	N Pearly everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	4-12"	American Lady	Very easy to transplant.
	N Quaking, bigtooth aspen <i>Populus tremuloides, grandidentata</i>	10-60'	Viceroy, White Admiral	Quaking aspen especially is a pest tree; spreads by runners.
	A Queen Anne's lace <i>Daucus carota</i>	2-3'	Black Swallowtail	
	A Stinging nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>	2-4'	Question Mark, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral	Handle with gloves and pruning shears; keep well as cut leaves.
3	N Violets, incl. lance-leafed <i>Viola, incl. lanceolata</i>	2-6"	Fritillaries	Very easy to transplant.

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). Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

	NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
1	Canadian Swallowtail <i>Papilio canadensis</i>	>5-6	6-7	Wild cherry	
4	Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	5-10	5-10	Cabbage family	Not numerous.

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COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	>6-7 (males) 7-8 (females)	9-5	Violets	
3 Northern Crescent <i>Phyciodes selenis</i>	=6		Asters	
Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	4-10	5-8	Stinging nettle	Often very early & very late in season; not very numerous but common in woody areas.
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	4-10	5-8	Willow	First butterfly of year; always welcome.
5 American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	6-8	6-8	Pussytoes, cudweed,	At least 2 broods per summer.
Common Ringlet <i>Coenonympha tullia inornata</i>	all summer		Grasses	Multiple broods per summer.
2 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	8-9	8-9	Milkweeds	Caterpillar susceptible to drought.
Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	< to = 7		Black locust, groundnut	Loves to nectar at cow vetch.
European Skipper <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	= to > 6		Timothy grass	Overwhelming numbers in season.

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Variegated Fritillary <i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	> 8		Lance-leaved violet (<i>Viola lanceolata</i>)	Not every year; caterpillars do stand cold nights.
Harris' Checkerspot <i>Chlosyne harrisii</i>	= to > 6	= to > 5	Flat-topped white aster (<i>A. umbellatus</i>)	Needs poorly drained meadow.
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	6-8	6-8	Stinging nettles	Numbers vary yearly.
White Admiral <i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	= 6 to 7		Aspens	Needs woods edges; abundant in season.

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GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 4

Coastal areas in general have less extreme temperatures and can support plants that will not survive the colder winter in the interior. Maine tends to have long, cold, wet springs and frosts can occur in June. Recently (in the past 5-10 years) there has been a tendency for drought in August.

Monarchs nectaring on goldenrod, by Elizabeth Smith