



# NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

by Marlene A. Condon

### TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

A number in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Numbers in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
A	Cosmos <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	18-24"	many	long	Sulphurs American Lady Monarch	easy from seed; put in dry, sunny areas
A 3	French marigold <i>Tagetes patula</i>	8-12"	many	long	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Spicebush Swallowtail Sulphurs Great Spangled Fritillary Monarch Skippers	easy from seed; does well in dry, sunny areas; sometimes reseeds; birds eat the seeds
A	Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	1' (in pots)	yellow,red	long	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary Monarch Skippers	grow outside in pots after danger of frost; bring in before fall frost; cut back & overwinter in cool spot, water sparingly
A	Red, white clovers <i>Trifolium pratense, repens</i>	6-18"	red,white	long	Sulphurs Eastern Tailed Blue	
A 1	Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i>	1-2'	many	long	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Spicebush Swallowtail American Lady Monarch	easy to grow from seed
N	Small-flowered bittercress <i>Cardamine parviflora</i>	4-6"	white	3-4	Spring Azure	
A	Ground ivy <i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	2-4"	violet	3-6	Sulphurs American Lady Duskywings Clearwing moths	one of first nectar sources in spring

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
A/N	Apples <i>Malus</i>	10-45'	white,pink	4	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	
A	Autumn olive <i>Eleagnus umbellatus</i>	12-15'	yellowish	4	Zebra Swallowtail Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Juvenal's Duskywing	wonderful fragrance; eventually spreads
N/A	Azaleas <i>Rhododendron</i>	4-8'	many	4-5	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Clearwing moths	also attractive to hummingbirds
N	Blueberry <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	8'	white	4-5	Zebra Swallowtail Silver-spotted Skipper Juvenal's Duskywing	
A	Dame's rocket <i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	2-4'	purple	4-6	American Lady Monarch	pretty plant; finches love seeds
A	Daylilies <i>Hemerocallis</i>	2-3'	red,yellow	4-9	Spicebush Swallowtail	can take partial shade
A	Purple dead nettle <i>Lamium purpureum</i>	4-6"	purple	4-frost	Sulphurs	
N	Black-eyed Susan, Coneflowers <i>Rudbeckia</i>	1-3'	yellow	5-frost	Silvery Checkerspot Pearl Crescent American Lady Silver-spotted Skipper	does well in dry, sunny areas; spreads each year; birds eat the seeds
N	Ohio buckeye <i>Aesculus glabra</i>	10'	white	6	Zebra Swallowtail Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary Red Admiral, Silver-spotted Skipper	very slow-growing; seeds supposedly poisonous
A	Privets <i>Ligustrum</i>	15'	white	6	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary American Lady	
A	Asiatic lilies <i>Lilium</i>	1-4'	orange,red	6-7	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Sulphurs	need protection from deer
N	Indian hemp <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	1-4'	white	6-8	Zebra Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary	
N	Milkweeds <i>Asclepias</i>	1-4'	pink	6-8	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Spring Azure Great Spangled Fritillary	fragrant
A/N	Thistles <i>Cirsium</i>	1-6'	pink	6-9	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Peck's Skipper	goldfinches use down for nests
A	Perennial pea <i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	trailing	whitish pink	6-10	Silver-spotted Skipper	needs room to spread
A	Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	1-2'	white	6-frost	Eastern Tailed Blue	fern-like foliage

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**TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS**

(continued)

	<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>COLOR</b>	<b>BLOOM SEASON</b>	<b>ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
A/N	Mints <i>Mentha</i>	1-2'	purple	7-8	Cabbage White Eastern Tailed Blue	spread by under-ground runners; hard to keep in bounds
N	Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	2-3'	pink-purple	7-8	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary	
N 2	Wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2-3'	lilac	7-8	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Spicebush Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary Monarch Silver-spotted Skipper	easy to start from seed; does well in dry, sunny areas; spreads each year; birds eat the seeds
N	Joe-pye-weeds <i>Eupatorium</i>	5-7'	purple	7-9	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Great Spangled Fritillary Common Buckeye Silver-spotted Skipper	
N	New York ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	3-7'	purple	8-9	Silver-spotted Skipper	
N	Obedient plant <i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	1-3'	pink	8-9	Pearl Crescent	
A	Snow-on-the-mountain <i>Euphorbia marginata</i>	1-3'	white	8-10	Pearl Crescent Common Buckeye Skippers	sap irritating to some people, but it's easily avoided
N	Goldenrods <i>Solidago</i>	4'	yellow	8-10	Monarch	somewhat unkempt
N	Heath aster <i>Aster pilosus</i>	1-2'	white	9-10	Cabbage White Eastern Tailed Blue Pearl Crescent	

**NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION**

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

<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
none to list	

## CENTRAL VIRGINIA

### TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

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

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N	False nettle <i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	2-3'	Red Admiral	Goldfinches love the seeds.
N	Milkweeds <i>Asclepias</i>	1-4'	Monarch	known as invasive, but very easy to control

### 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 FOOD PLANTS
	Zebra Swallowtail <i>Eurytides marcellus</i>	4-6	paw-paw
1	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	3-10	tulip tree
	Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Papilio troilus</i>	4-9	sassafras, spicebush
	Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	4-10	wintercress
	Falcate Orangetip <i>Anthocharis midea</i>	4-5	wintercress
	Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	4-10	white & red clovers, trefoil
	Harvester <i>Feniseca tarquinius</i>	5-9	aphids on beeches
	Red-banded Hairstreak <i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	8	oaks
	Eastern Tailed-Blue <i>Everes comyntas</i>	3-9	alfalfa, clover
	Spring Azure <i>Celastrina ladon</i>	4-7	blueberries, dogwoods, viburnums, wild cherries
2	Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	5-9	violets
	Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	4-10	asters

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### COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	3-4,6-10		elms, false nettles, hackberries
Eastern Comma <i>Polygonia comma</i>	4,6-10		elms, false nettles, hackberries
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	4,6-10		birches, cottonwoods, elms, willows
American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	4-7		pearly & sweet everlastings
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	4-9		false nettles
Red-spotted Purple <i>Limenitis arthemis (astyanax)</i>	5-10		wild cherries
Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	8-10		plantain
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	4-10		milkweeds
3 Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	4-10		black locust, wisteria
Juvenal's Duskywing <i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	4-5		oaks

### 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
Banded Hairstreak <i>Satyrium calanaus</i>	5-7		oaks, hickories
Striped Hairstreak <i>Satyrium liparops</i>	6		blueberries, wild cherries
Southern Hairstreak <i>Satyrium favonius</i>	6		oaks
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	5		many
Silvery Checkerspot <i>Chlosyne nycteis</i>	7		Black-eyed Susan

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

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	7-9		hackberries
Tawny Emperor <i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	6-7		hackberries
Little Wood-Satyr <i>Megisto cymela</i>	6-7		grasses
Southern Cloudywing <i>Thorybes bathyllus</i>	6		legumes
Wild Indigo Duskywing <i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	5		crown vetch
Indian Skipper <i>Hesperia sassacus</i>	8-9		grasses
Peck's Skipper <i>Polites peckius</i>	7-8		grasses
Crossline Skipper <i>Polites origenes</i>	6		Purpletop, other grasses
Whirlabout <i>Polites vibex</i>	8		grasses
Sachem <i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	8		crabgrass
Clouded Skipper <i>Lerema accius</i>	9-10		grasses

### GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

#### USDA ZONE: 7

The growing season is very long (end of April to October, sometimes November). The climate is mild with hot summers, beautiful springs and falls, and winters that are usually mild but sometimes severe. The area has clay soil. Many southern plants reach their northernmost limit here and can be killed or damaged if the winter is unusually cold. However, this means that an enormous number of plants can be grown here.

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