



# Butterfly Host Plants

Butterfly caterpillars are very picky eaters! Some will only eat the plants in a specific genus. Others may enjoy a broader selection but still limit their diet to plants in a certain taxonomic family. The following list includes host plants for some of the common butterfly species.  
[www.butterflyjane.com](http://www.butterflyjane.com)



Common Name	Genus	Host Plants	Common Name	Genus	Host Plants
<b>monarch</b>	<i>Danus plexippus</i>	Genus <i>Asclepias</i> milkweeds	<b>red admiral</b>	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	nettles, false nettles, hops
<b>tiger swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	many trees - birch, lilac, cherry, tulip, willows	<b>painted lady, American painted lady</b>	<i>Vanessa cardui</i> <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	composites, mallows, thistle
<b>black swallow-tail</b>	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	carrot family - <i>Angelica</i> , <i>Zizia</i> , dill, parsley, fennel	<b>buckeye</b>	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	plantain, snapdragon, vervain, stonecrop, <i>Ruellia</i>
<b>spicebush swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio troilus</i>	spicebush, sassafras, bays	<b>red-spotted purple</b>	<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	apple, aspen, cherry, hawthorn, poplar, willow
<b>giant swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	prickly ash, citrus, rue, hops tree	<b>viceroy</b>	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	willow, poplar, aspen, apple, cherry, plum
<b>pipevine swallowtail</b>	<i>Battus philenor</i>	pipevines, Virginia snakeroot	<b>pearl crescent</b>	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	asters
<b>cabbage white</b>	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	cabbage, cleome, mustards, nasturtium	<b>gray hairstreak</b>	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	wide variety of plants - corn, oaks, strawberry, legumes and mallow
<b>sulphurs</b>	<i>Colias</i> spp., <i>Nathalis iole</i> <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	legumes - alfalfa, clovers, false indigo, sennas, vetch, marigold, sneezeweed	<b>spring azure</b>	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	blueberry, dogwood, viburnum, new jersey tea, wild cherry, spirea
<b>morning cloak</b>	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	willow, aspen, elm, birch, hackberry	<b>eastern tailed blue</b>	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	legumes including vetches, clovers, alfalfa
<b>comma, question mark</b>	<i>Polygonia comma</i> , <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	hops vine, nettles, elm, hackberry	<b>silver-spotted skipper</b>	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	wisteria, locusts, beans, tick trefoil
<b>fritillaries</b>	<i>Boloria</i> spp. <i>Speyeria</i> spp,	violets	<b>fiery skipper, European skipper</b>	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i> <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	assorted grasses