



# The Dawes Arboretum

Trees ∞ History ∞ Nature

An adult butterfly feeds on the nectar of many different flowers, but a butterfly larva (caterpillar) must eat leaves and stems. Many species (sp.) of butterfly larvae rely upon just one or two specific types of plants for their diet. Planting some of these critical host plants to feed larvae, in addition to planting nectar producing plants, is the best way to attract and keep butterflies around your gardens.

## Woody Plants for Butterfly Gardens

Plant's Common Name	Plant's Botanical Name	Leaves/Stems Host to Specific Larvae
abelia	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	
aralia	<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	
ash	<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	tiger swallowtail
birch	<i>Betula</i> sp.	tiger swallowtail
blackberry, raspberry	<i>Rubus</i> sp.	
black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	silver-spotted skipper
black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	hickory, banded hairstreak
blueberry, huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium</i> sp.	spring azure
buckeye, horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus</i> sp.	
buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus</i> sp.	zebra swallowtail
butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleia</i> sp.	pipe-vine, zebra and giant swallowtails, cloudless sulphur, gulf fritillary, American painted lady, red-spotted purple, viceroy (and a nectar source for most adult butterflies!)
buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	
cherry	<i>Prunus</i> sp.	tiger swallowtail, coral hairstreak, spring azure, red-spotted purple, viceroy, mourning cloak
cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	
crabapple	<i>Malus</i> sp.	cloudless sulphur, striped hairstreak, viceroy
currant	<i>Ribes</i> sp.	
dogwood	<i>Cornus</i> sp.	spring azure
eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	
elm	<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	mourning cloak, comma, question mark, hackberry, tawny emperor
flowering quince	<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	red-spotted purple
hackberry	<i>Celtis</i> sp.	question mark, American snout, mourning cloak, hackberry, tawny emperor
hickory	<i>Carya</i> sp.	hickory, banded hairstreak
honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i> sp.	
hoptree	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	giant swallowtail
Labrador tea	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	
lilacs	<i>Syringa</i> sp.	
lindens	<i>Tilia</i> sp.	question mark, tiger swallowtail, white-m hairstreak

mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	
mock orange	<i>Philadelphus</i> sp.	
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	spring azure, mottled dusky wing skipper
paw-paw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	zebra swallowtail
poplar	<i>Populus</i> sp.	tiger swallowtail, red-spotted purple, viceroy, mourning cloak
rhododendron, azalea	<i>Rhododendron</i> sp.	
sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	spicebush swallowtail
serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i> sp.	red-spotted purple
shrubby potentilla	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	
spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	skipper, spicebush swallowtail
spirea	<i>Spirea</i> sp.	spring azure
sumac	<i>Rhus</i> sp.	spring azure
sweetbay magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	spicebush swallowtail
tulip-tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tiger swallowtail
viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> sp.	spring azure
white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	banded hairstreak
willows	<i>Salix</i> sp.	mourning cloak, red-spotted purple, viceroy
wisteria	<i>Wisteria</i> sp.	
witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis</i> sp.	harvester

## Perennials for Butterfly Gardens

Plant's Common Name	Plant's Botanical Name	Host to Specific Larvae
anise-hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	
asters	<i>Aster</i> sp.	pearl crescent, question mark, comma, monarch
astilbe	<i>Astilbe x arendsii</i>	
beardtongue	<i>Penstemon</i> sp.	Baltimore
bee balm, bergamot	<i>Monarda</i> sp.	
beggar-ticks	<i>Bidens</i> sp.	dwarf sulfur
bishops goutweed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	black swallowtail
black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia</i> sp.	
bleeding heart	<i>Dicentra</i> sp.	falcate orange tip
bluet	<i>Hedyotis caerulea</i>	
borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	painted lady
bugle-weed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	
butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	monarch, great spangled fritillary
candytuft	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	gray hairstreak
catnip	<i>Nepeta</i> sp.	
chrysanthemum, daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> sp.	
clover	<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	dog face, clouded sulphur, cloudless sulphur, skipper
columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i> sp.	
comfrey	<i>Symphytum</i> sp.	
coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis</i> sp.	
corn salad	<i>Valerianella umblicata</i>	Baltimore
cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	

crown vetch	<i>Coronilla varia</i>	
dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	alfalfa butterfly
daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i> hybrids	
dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	monarch
Dutchman's-pipe	<i>Aristolochia durior</i>	pipe-vine swallowtail
eastern prickly pear	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	
evening primrose	<i>Oenothera</i> sp.	
false indigo, lead plant	<i>Amorpha</i> sp.	dogface butterfly
false nettle	<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	comma, red admiral
false rockcress	<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>	
fleabane	<i>Erigeron</i> sp.	
forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	
four-o'clocks	<i>Mirabilis</i> sp.	
foxglove	<i>Digitalis</i> sp.	
gas plant	<i>Dictanhus albus</i>	giant swallowtail
geranium	<i>Geranium</i> sp.	
globe thistle	<i>Echinops</i> sp.	
goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> sp.	monarch, comma, question mark
hawkweed	<i>Hieracium</i> sp.	
hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus</i> sp.	gray hairstreak
hoary puccoon	<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	
hollyhock	<i>Aleca rosea</i>	painted lady, skipper
hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	common hairstreak
hosta	<i>Hosta</i> sp.	
impatiens, jewel-weed	<i>Impatiens</i> sp.	
Indian hemp	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	
ironweed	<i>Vernonia</i> sp.	
joe-pye weed, boneset	<i>Eupatorium</i> sp.	
knotweed, smartweed	<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	bronze copper
larkspur	<i>Delphinium</i> sp.	
lavender	<i>Lavandula</i> sp.	
liatris, blazing star	<i>Liatris</i> sp.	
lily	<i>Lilium</i> sp.	
lupine	<i>Lupinus</i> sp.	
mallow	<i>Malva</i> sp.	
meadow rue	<i>Thalictrum</i> sp.	black swallowtail
meadowsweet	<i>Spirea salicifolia</i>	spring azure
milkvetch	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	
milkweed, butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias</i> sp.	monarch, great spangled fritillary
mint	<i>Mentha</i> sp.	
mustard family	<i>Brassica</i> sp.	
nettle	<i>Urtica</i> sp.	comma, question mark, red admiral, Milbert's tortoise shell
onion, chives, garlic, leeks	<i>Allium</i> sp.	
pearly everlasting	<i>Anaphalis triplinervis</i>	American painted lady
pea/bean family		skipper, gray hairstreak
perennial sunflower	<i>Helianthus x multiflorus</i>	painted lady
phlox	<i>Phlox</i> sp.	
pickerel weed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	
pinks, sweet-William	<i>Dianthus</i> sp.	

primrose	<i>Primula x polyantha</i>	
purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	
pussytoes	<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	
queen-of-the-prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	
ragwort, groundsel	<i>Senecio</i> sp.	northern metalmark
rose	<i>Rosa</i> sp.	mourning cloak
scabiosa	<i>Scabiosa</i> sp.	
self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	
senna	<i>Cassia</i> sp.	cloudless sulphur, gray hairstreak
snow-on-the-mountain	<i>Euphorbia marginata</i>	
stonecrop	<i>Sedum</i> sp.	
strawberry	<i>Fragaria</i> sp.	
teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	
thistle	<i>Cirsium</i> sp.	painted lady, great spangled fritillary, red admiral
thrift	<i>Armeria</i> sp.	
toothwort	<i>Dentaria</i> sp.	cabbage white, falcate orange tip
turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Baltimore
verbena, vervain	<i>Verbena</i> sp.	
vetch	<i>Vicia</i> sp.	clouded sulphur
violet	<i>Viola</i> sp.	regal, great spangled and meadow fritillary
Virginia spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia x andersoniana</i>	
yarrow	<i>Achillea</i> sp.	

## Annuals for Butterfly Gardens

Plant's Common Name	Plant's Botanical Name	Host to Specific Larvae
ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	
alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	
bachelor's button	<i>Centaurea</i> sp.	
Brazilian sage	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	
carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	black swallowtail
common sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	painted lady
coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis</i> sp.	
cosmos	<i>Cosmos</i> sp.	
dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	black swallowtail
fennel	<i>Foeniculum</i> sp.	black swallowtail, anise swallowtail
four-o'clocks	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	
flowering tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	
geranium	<i>Pelargonium</i> sp.	
globe amaranth, gomphrena	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	
heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	
impatiens, jewel-weed	<i>Impatiens</i> sp.	
lantana	<i>Lantana</i> sp.	
marigold	<i>Tagetes</i> sp.	
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	
money plant, honesty	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	
mustard family	<i>Brassica</i> sp.	cabbage white

nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	cabbage white
parsley	<i>Petroselinum</i> sp.	black swallowtail
pentas, star flower	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	
petunia	<i>Petunia</i> sp.	
pinks, sweet-William	<i>Dianthus</i> sp.	
pot marigold	<i>Calendula</i> sp.	
radish	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	
rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinales</i>	
salvia, sage	<i>Salvia</i> sp.	
snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	buckeye
spider-flower	<i>Cleome hassleriana</i>	checkered white
stock	<i>Mathiola incana</i>	
sweet alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	
thyme	<i>Thymus</i> sp.	
zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i> sp.	