

How to Build a Butterfly Garden

Created by Saving Birds Thru Habitat (www.savingbirds.org)



Gray Hairstreak by Jeff Kingery

Douglas Tallamy informs us in his book *Bringing Nature Home* that in order to have butterflies, we must first “make” butterflies. Most people think only of planting nectar-bearing plants for butterflies, but these beautiful insects are “made” on larval host plants. Following are suggestions for some butterfly species that occur in the Great Lakes region:

Butterfly species

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Spicebush Swallowtail

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail

Black Swallowtail

Wild Indigo Duskywing:

Northern Spring Azure

Summer Azure

Karner Blue:

Silvery Blue

Northern Blue

Pink Edged Sulfur

Great Spangled Fritillary

Aphrodite Fritillary

Atlantis Fritillary

Meadow Fritillary

Silvery Bordered Fritillary

Pearl Crescent

Northern Pearl Crescent

Silvery Checkerspot

Larval host plants

Leaves of native cherry, cottonwood and tuliptree

Spicebush and sassafras

Trembling Aspen, birch, black cherry

Wild American Carrot (often mistaken for non-native

Queen Anne’s lace)

Wild Indigo

wild cherries, blue cherries

Composites, dogwood, mints, sumae

Lupine

Vetch

Blueberry, dwarf bilberry

Blueberry

Native violets

Native violets

Native violets

Native violets

Native violets

Native asters

Asters

Black-eyed Susan, aster, native sunflowers

Red Spotted Purple	Native cherries and willows, aspen
Banded Hairstreak	Oaks and hickories
Striped Hairstreak	Wild cherry, oaks, blueberry, juneberry
Gray Hairstreak	American vetch and native mallows
Coral Hairstreak	Wild Cherries and wild plum
Brown Elfin	Blueberry, bearberry, bog laurel
Eastern Pine Elfin	Jack and white pine
Monarch	Milkweeds
Question Mark	Elms, nettles, hackberry
Olympia Marble	Rock cress
Eastern Comma	Elms, nettles
Gray Comma	Currants, gooseberry
American Copper	Sorrels
Purplish Copper	Docks
Green Comma	Alder, birch, blueberry, willow, gooseberry
Compton Tortioseshell	Aspen, birch, willows
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	Nettles
Mourning Cloak	Willows, cottonwoods, birches, hackberries
Red Admiral	Nettles
White Admiral	Willows, poplars and birches
Painted Lady	Pearly everlasting, sweet everlasting
American Lady	Pearly everlasting, sweet everlasting, pussytoes
Viceroy	Willows
Little Wood Satyr	Native grasses
Dusky Wing family	Oaks
Clouded Sulpher	Native groundnut
Common Checkered Skipper	Glade mallow; any native mallow
Dusted Skipper	Bluestem grasses
West Virginia White	Toothworts
Mustard White	Native mustards

For nectar bearing plants, include:

Native milkweeds, columbine, asters, coneflowers, black-eyed Susan, blazing star (liatris), goldenrods, pearly everlasting, lupine, native violets (wooded areas), bee balm, Joe-pye weed, horsemint, boneset, rattlesnake master and native grasses (big and little bluestem, Indian grass, June grass).

NOTE: Avoid butterfly bush (*buddleia*), an aggressive alien plant. No North American butterfly species can use *buddleia* as a larval host plant.