

What is a host plant and why are they important?

Most butterfly and moth young eat only one or just a few species of plants. The plant species where the females lay their eggs and that the larvae eat are called host plants. By planting host plants in our gardens, we can turn our yards in to havens for pollinating butterflies and moths.

Common Milkweed
(*Asclepias syriaca*)



Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

Monarch larva



Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

Adult Monarch



Brett Billings/USFWS

Showy tick-trefoil
(*Desmodium canadense*) and other plants in the pea (*Fabaceae*) and mallow (*Malvaceae*) families*



Nathan Rauh CCO 1.0

Gray hairstreak larva



Charles Olsen, CC BY-NC 3.0

Adult Gray hairstreak



Thomas Shahan, CC BY-NC

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.



Learn more at pollinator.org/nappc/lepidoptera/!

*Please consult with your local native plant society or nursery before purchasing!

