

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*) and other milkweeds*



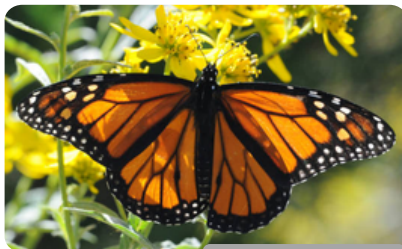
Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

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



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Adult Gray hairstreak



Thomas Shahan, CC BY-NC

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Protect their lives. Preserve ours.



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

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

Host plant guide for supporting pollinating moths and butterflies

MD, VA, WV

Spicebush
(*Lindera benzoin*)



USGS Bee Inventory & Monitoring Lab

Spicebush
swallowtail
larva



Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

Adult
spicebush
swallowtail



Barb Dunlap, CC BY 2.0

Round-headed
bush clover
(*Lespedeza capitata*) and
other plants in the
pea family
(*Fabaceae*)*



Doug McGrady, CC BY 2.0

Orange
sulphur
larva



John Capinera, CC BY-NC 3.0

Adult
Orange
Sulphur



Tom Koerner/USFWS

Blue false indigo
(*Baptisia australis*) and
other plants in
the pea family
(*Fabaceae*)*



Jeffrey A. Ewick, CC01.0

Silver-
spotted
skipper larva



Judy Gallagher, CC BY 2.0

Adult silver-
spotted
skipper



Judy Gallagher, CC BY 2.0

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Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

Your garden can make a big difference in the fight against pollinator decline!