



GREEN SPRING GARDENS

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USING NATIVE PLANTS TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES AND CLEARWING MOTHS IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA AND VIRGINIA



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Virginia's State Insect, on Swamp Milkweed (Photo by Don Sweeney)

Gardening for wildlife is a unique kind of gardening that aims to attract and sustain desirable wildlife. Butterflies and moths make a garden come alive and help nourish our delight in the natural world. Attract some of the world's loveliest pollinators by using native plants in your landscape. Native plants are species that existed in Virginia before Jamestown, Virginia was founded in 1607. Our local plants and animals evolved together, so native plants are often essential for hosting the egg-laying and larval stages critical to the life cycle of butterflies and moths. The flowers of native plants also provide an abundance of nectar for adult butterflies and moths.

ABOUT BUTTERFLIES

Butterfly Food Requirements

Butterflies' food requirements change during the various stages of their life cycle. Plants that nourish caterpillars (larvae) are called **hostplants or larval foodplants**. Many adult butterflies feed on nectar from the flowers of **nectar plants**.

Caterpillars (Larvae)

Most butterflies have very specific hostplant requirements. Some butterfly species can only use one plant species as a larval foodplant, such as dusky azure caterpillars feeding solely on goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*). In contrast, the caterpillars of other butterfly species can feed on a wide range of plants. For example, the eastern tiger swallowtail can feed on plants in several plant families. Butterflies lay eggs on or near their hostplants, and caterpillars hatch from these eggs. Most caterpillars eat plenty of leaves, but some eat flowers, fruits, and/ or seeds of the hostplant. They molt or shed their skins several times as they grow, then pupate to transform into an adult butterfly.

Adult Butterflies

When a butterfly emerges from its pupa or chrysalis, it has transformed into an adult butterfly. **Most adult butterflies use their tongue (proboscis) to sip nectar.** Unlike caterpillars, the adults of many species are less particular about nectar sources: many can feed on nectar from a wide range of plant species.

Not all adult butterflies rely on nectar for sustenance. These special butterflies can be grouped as follows:

- Some butterflies only occasionally feed on nectar. The mourning cloak butterfly, for example, prefers to feed on the **sap of trees**, especially oaks, but they will also feed on nectar and **rotting fruit**. Other adult butterflies feed on **decaying fungi, carrion, or dung**. For example, red admiral adults prefer sap, fermenting fruit, and bird droppings over nectar.

- Some butterflies never feed on nectar. The hackberry emperor butterfly, for example, feeds on sap, rotting fruit, dung, and carrion, while the **harvester butterfly feeds on aphid honeydew**. In addition, some butterflies do not feed as adults and live off food reserves obtained during the larval stage.

Tips for Butterfly Gardening

Attracting butterflies to your garden is easy if you keep the following points in mind:

- Plant a wide range of plants to provide caterpillar food and nectar for adults throughout the growing season. Plant two or more plants of each species whenever possible – swaths of color and fragrance are easier for butterflies to spot than single plants.
- A diversity of habitats is important – most adult butterflies find nectar in sunny areas, but many larval foodplants grow in shade. Mimic nature and grow layers of herbaceous and woody vegetation. Woody plants are important in butterfly gardens - many trees and shrubs are hostplants as well as popular overwintering sites.
- Take a more relaxed approach to turf care and to maintaining the less formal areas of your garden beds: practice tolerance and let some ‘weeds’ like violets decorate the lawn and garden beds. Many weeds are larval foodplants and nectar plants.
- Leave dead foliage of many perennials up until early spring to allow for winter cover, and do not be too tidy in your spring cleanup. Some butterflies overwinter as larvae or pupae in leaf litter at the base of hostplants: only rake leaves up where you absolutely need to, such as an exceptionally thick layer where many leaves blow and accumulate, and leave most of the leaves on your garden beds. Only a few natives that grow in the shade are sensitive to rot when covered up by a light layer of leaf debris, such as cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).
- Limit or eliminate pesticide use, especially insecticides, because butterflies are insects. Many insecticides do not discriminate between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ insects. This includes organic pesticides such as Bt, a popular insecticide used to control unwanted caterpillars and mosquitoes. The populations of many butterfly species have been reduced by insecticide sprays to control gypsy moths and mosquitoes.
- In addition to food, butterflies need shelter, water, warmth, and minerals. Mud puddles, moist soil or sand, rotting fruit, tree sap, and dung are good sources of minerals and moisture. Sheltered sunlit spots such as rocks or a patch of sand are good areas for butterflies to bask in on cooler days.

NATIVE PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLIES IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA AND VIRGINIA

Details About The Native Plants Listed Below

- Most of the plants listed here are growing in the Virginia Native Plant Garden, the Wildlife Garden, the Virginia Native Plant Society holding beds, and other gardens and natural areas at Green Spring Gardens.
- **All plants listed are native to Virginia unless otherwise noted.** Plants not native to Virginia are native to the eastern and southeastern United States. Only purchase native plants that are propagated, not wild collected: the North Carolina Botanical Garden has an excellent website for our region - **Recommended Plant Sources for Native Plants** (<http://ncbg.unc.edu/pages/48/>). The Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society also sells plants twice a year at Green Spring (in May and September).
- The following plants have ornamental value and documented wildlife value. Plants that are best for naturalistic use, and not appropriate for use in more formal gardens, are noted. More detailed cultural information about most of these plants is available in **Green Spring’s Plant Information Sheets** (available at the front desk or under **Gardening** on Green Spring’s website – www.fairfaxcounty/parks/gsgp [www.greenspring.org]).
- **Scientific Names of Plants** – current names are from the **International Plant Names Index** (IPNI; www.ipni.org/index.html) and/or the **USDA PLANTS Database** (<http://plants.usda.gov/>; this website also has many photographs of native plants). If a second scientific name is given, it is usually an old name that is still seen in some references or used by some nurseries (*Aster* and *Eupatorium* are notable exceptions – see in herbaceous perennials section). The **Missouri Botanical Garden** is also an excellent reference

for plant names, gardening information, and photographs: the **Kemper Center for Home Gardening Plantfinder** features plants in their Kemper Center display gardens and is one of my favorite websites about ornamental plants (www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/alpha.asp). Another resource is their plant name database for plants throughout the world at **w³TROPICOS** (<http://mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html>).



Details About The Butterflies Listed Below

- **Common Names for Butterflies** (and moths in the following section) are from **Butterflies and Moths of North America** (www.butterfliesandmoths.org; see an extensive list of resources at the end of this information sheet). **Many of these butterflies are uncommon or rare in Virginia, which highlights the critical importance of preserving natural habitats to protect our rich biological diversity.** Butterfly species often have localized populations in specialized habitats and will not be found on listed plants in many locations. A few butterflies have another common name – **alternate common names in "Butterflies of the East Coast. An Observer's Guide"** are listed in parentheses. Taxonomic groups are listed if two or more butterfly species in each group are found on a particular plant: the groups are Blues, True Brushfoots (listed under Brushfoots), Emperors, Longwings (all Fritillaries in Virginia so listed under Fritillaries), Hairstreaks, Satyrs and Wood-Nymphs, Sulphurs, Swallowtails, Whites, and Skippers (includes grass skippers [branded skippers] and spread-wing skippers [larger skippers]).
- **Adult Butterflies and Nectaring** - Some plant species are highly preferred for nectaring and attract numerous species of butterflies, while other nectar plants attract butterflies every now and then. Butterflies nectar on what is locally available, so what they feed on in the wild can be very different from what they nectar on in gardens. Some butterflies nectar on one or two plant species, while others, such as the gray hairstreak, nectar on large numbers of plant species. **Plants that a particular butterfly species may nectar on are often not reported since this is so variable from location to location, and since the plant lists would be very large for some butterfly species. Rare butterfly species have also been reported more extensively.**

The plants that attract the greatest number of adult butterflies are highlighted in green in the adult butterfly column. Eric Raun, a member of the Washington Area Butterfly Club, has a website about gardening for butterflies at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland (<http://mysite.verizon.net/vze8fvo3/id7.html>). The following butterfly species use the most nectar plants in his garden: several skippers (sachem – the champion!, Peck's skipper, silver-spotted skipper, & zabulon skipper), eastern tiger swallowtail, a few hairstreaks (red-banded hairstreak and gray hairstreak), monarch, orange sulphur, pearl crescent, and summer azure. (An introduced butterfly species, the cabbage white, is not listed in this information sheet)

- **Frequency of Butterflies Occurring in the D.C. Area** - Richard H. Smith, a local expert in the Washington Area Butterfly Club & Maryland Entomological Society, developed a frequency list for the Washington, D.C. area (http://users.sitestar.net/~jmfarron/d_smith/smith~1htm). The D.C. area is defined as Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax counties in Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia and Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in Maryland. Flight times are also listed on this website (posted July 2004). **If not stated otherwise, a given species is common in the Washington, D.C. region and in Virginia.**
- **Frequency of Butterflies in Virginia:** If a butterfly is uncommon in Virginia but not rare here, this information was published in "A Birder's Guide to Virginia" (David Johnston, compiler, and butterfly list by Paul Opler, 1997). Information about rare butterfly species in Virginia comes from the "**Virginia Rare Animal List**" published by the Division of Natural Heritage in 2006 (www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/anlist06.pdf). **State ranks in the Virginia Rare Animal List are explained below:**
S1= extremely rare and critically imperiled in VA with 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals in VA.
S2 = very rare and imperiled with 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals in VA.
S3= rare to uncommon in VA with between 20 and 100 occurrences.
S4= common and apparently secure in VA, although may be rare in part of its range. (Some butterflies are assigned a combination of these ranks or a question mark beside the rating because of the complexity of monitoring their populations).

🌿 Medium-sized to Large Deciduous Trees

Scientific Name & Common Name of Plants that are Common Foodplants for Butterflies	Larval Foodplants for the Following Butterfly Species in the Eastern U.S. 	Adult Butterflies in the Eastern U.S. (Mostly Nectar Plants) 
<i>Betula nigra</i> (river birch) & <i>B. lenta</i> (sweet birch; naturalistic use)	Dreamy duskywing, eastern tiger swallowtail, & red-spotted purple Brushfoots: green comma (S3? - in the mountains; <i>Betula lenta</i> is the hostplant), possibly mourning cloak, & possibly Compton tortoiseshell (prefers paper birch & gray birch – both VA natives are mountain species; butterfly reported at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge in MD & in one mountain county in VA)	Adult – northern pearly eye (uncommon in DC area & VA – feeds on tree sap)
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (American hornbeam or ironwood)	Eastern tiger swallowtail, red-spotted purple, & striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	
<i>Carya</i> species (hickory)	Hairstreaks: banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area) & hickory hairstreak (S2S4 – once in DC area)	
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (northern hackberry; naturalistic use) & <i>C. laevigata</i> (sugar hackberry; Green Spring has a hybrid of these two species)	American snout (uncommon in DC area & VA) Brushfoots: mourning cloak, question mark, & occasionally eastern comma Emperors: hackberry emperor & tawny emperor (both are uncommon species in the DC area & VA)	
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> (American beech)	Early hairstreak (S3 - mostly in the mountains; feeds on developing beechnuts & takes 40 – 60 years for a tree to produce beechnuts, so only on mature trees). Harvester - an unusual species that feeds on woolly aphids as larvae (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA).	Adult - harvester (an unusual species that mostly feeds on aphid honeydew as adults; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)
<i>Fraxinus americana</i> (white ash) & <i>F. pennsylvanica</i> (green ash) Note: <i>F. nigra</i> is native to VA but seldom grown in cultivation – it also is an important food source.	Eastern tiger swallowtail & harvester (an unusual species that feeds on woolly aphids as larvae; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA). Brushfoots: mourning cloak & Baltimore (also called Baltimore checkerspot; S3S4 - uncommon in DC area; can feed on <i>Fraxinus americana</i> after overwintering on other plants) Hairstreaks: striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & hickory hairstreak (S2S4 – once in DC area)	Adult - harvester (an unusual species that mostly feeds on aphid honeydew as adults; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> (honeylocust)	Silver-spotted skipper	

Juglans nigra (black walnut)	Banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area)	
Liriodendron tulipifera (tulip tree)	Swallowtails: eastern tiger swallowtail & spicebush swallowtail	
Morus rubra (red mulberry; naturalistic use)	Mourning cloak	
Ostrya virginica (American hophornbeam)	Mourning cloak & red-spotted purple	
Oxydendrum arboreum (sourwood; a medium-sized to large tree in most of VA, but more of a small understory tree in southeastern VA)		Adult – white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list), Edwards' hairstreak (S3S4 - rare in DC area), & king's hairstreak (S2S3 - in southeastern VA)
<p>Prunus serotina (black cherry; naturalistic use)</p> <p>Note: The small tree P. americana (wild plum) is native to our region but I have not observed it in cultivation here. The medium-sized shrub P. maritima (beach plum) has performed well in our Wildlife Garden (needs excellent drainage).</p>	<p>Eastern tiger swallowtail, red-spotted purple, & possibly viceroy</p> <p>Hairstreaks: coral hairstreak (uncommon in DC area) & striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Note: "Butterflies of the East Coast. An Observer's Guide" says that spring azure does not feed on <i>Prunus</i>: only the northern azure does, which is found in New Jersey north. However, the VA Rare Animal List calls this butterfly the northern spring azure & says its status is uncertain in VA.</p>	<p>Adult – Prunus species: red-spotted purple will occasionally nectar. Reported on wild cherry (plant scientific name often not given): eastern tiger swallowtail & red-banded hairstreak.</p> <p>Species on wild plum (plant scientific name often not given): juvenal's duskywing</p> <p>Elfins: eastern pine elfin (uncommon in DC area), Henry's elfin, brown elfin (latter two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & hoary elfin (S1S3 – in the mountains)</p> <p>Hairstreaks: white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list) & great purple hairstreak (S3 – once in DC area – hostplant is mistletoe)</p>
Quercus species (oak)	<p>Red-spotted purple</p> <p>Hairstreaks: banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area), southern hairstreak, striped hairstreak (latter two species are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list), Edwards' hairstreak (S3S4 - rare in DC area– prefers the shrubby Quercus ilicifolia & sometimes Q. velutina – a tree), & possibly hickory hairstreak (S2S4 - once in DC area). Also red-banded hairstreak likes to eat fallen, rotting leaves.</p> <p>Skippers: juvenal's duskywing, Horace's duskywing, & sleepy duskywing (rare in DC area; shrubby oaks like Q. ilicifolia).</p>	Adult of mourning cloak loves sap

<p><i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (black locust; naturalistic use)</p>	<p>Clouded sulphur (rarely used in NC – herbaceous legumes appear to be preferred)</p> <p>Skippers: silver-spotted skipper, zarucco duskywing (rare in DC area; widely scattered throughout VA), & possibly dreamy duskywing</p>	
<p><i>Salix nigra</i> (black willow)</p> <p>Note: also shorter native willows such as <i>S. humilis</i> (prairie willow) – a large shrub to small tree</p>	<p>Dreamy duskywing, eastern tiger swallowtail, red-spotted purple, viceroy, & striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Brushfoots: mourning cloak & Compton tortoiseshell (reported at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge in MD & in one mountain county in VA). Green comma on <i>Salix humilis</i> (S3? – in the mountains).</p>	<p>Adult - northern pearly eye (uncommon in DC area & VA – feeds on tree sap) & Compton tortoiseshell (feeds on nectar - reported at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge in MD & in one mountain county in VA)</p> <p>Elfins (feed on nectar): Henry's elfin, brown elfin (latter two species are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & hoary elfin (S1S3 – in the mountains)</p>
<p><i>Sassafras albidum</i> (sassafras)</p>	<p>Swallowtails: eastern tiger swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail, & palamedes swallowtail (normally found south of here on the coastal plain – rare in DC area)</p>	<p>Adult - king's hairstreak (S2S3 – southeastern VA). American lady reported in Illinois.</p>
<p><i>Tilia americana</i> (basswood)</p>	<p>Eastern tiger swallowtail, red-spotted purple, & possibly white M hairstreak (feeds on basswood in Ohio; rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list)</p>	
<p><i>Ulmus americana</i> (American elm)</p> <p>Note: <i>U. rubra</i> (slippery elm) is also native to our region</p>	<p>Brushfoots: eastern comma, mourning cloak, question mark, painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA), Compton tortoiseshell (reported at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge in MD & in one mountain county in VA), & occasionally gray comma (uncommon in VA – in mountains)</p>	

Deciduous trees less likely to attract butterflies in our area:

Acer saccharum (sugar maple) – the sap of this tree has been reported to attract **adults** of the red admiral, eastern comma, & mourning cloak in Illinois. ***Acer saccharinum*** (silver maple) is sometimes used by harvester butterflies in West Virginia (**larvae and adult**).

Trees that are best to leave in sites where found naturally (not for home landscape use - better ornamentals available for our area): ***Populus deltoides*** (eastern cottonwood) & ***P. tremuloides*** (aspen) - **larvae** for many

butterflies including dreamy duskywing, eastern tiger swallowtail, mourning cloak, red-spotted purple, viceroy, & Compton tortoiseshell (reported at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge in MD & in one mountain county in VA). Also the adult of northern pearly eye (uncommon in DC area & VA – feeds on tree sap).

Medium-sized to Large Evergreen Trees

<p><i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i> (Atlantic white cedar or falsecypress) - a wetland species that prefers moist (to wet) sandy soil</p>	<p>Hessel's hairstreak (S1 – in southeastern VA)</p>	
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<i>Ilex opaca</i> (American holly)	Henry's elfin (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & American holly azure (also called Atlantic [or holly] azure - a coastal plain species that is on edge of its range here)	
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> (eastern red cedar)	Juniper (olive) hairstreak (uncommon in DC area)	
<i>Pinus strobus</i> , <i>P. taeda</i> , & <i>P. virginiana</i> (white, loblolly, & Virginia pine, respectively)	Eastern pine elfin (uncommon in DC area)	

Small Deciduous Trees

<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> , <i>A. canadensis</i> (sometimes shrubby), <i>A. × grandiflora</i> (USDA - <i>A. laevis</i>), & <i>A. laevis</i> (juneberry, serviceberry, or shadblow)	Red-spotted purple Hairstreaks: occasionally coral hairstreak (uncommon in DC area) & striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	Adult - spring azure & hessel's hairstreak (S1 – in southeastern VA)
<i>Asimina triloba</i> (pawpaw; the smaller <i>A. parviflora</i> is native to southeastern VA)	Zebra swallowtail	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> (eastern redbud)	Henry's elfin (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	Adult – excellent nectar plant. Zebra swallowtail. Blues: spring azure, dusky azure, & silvery blue (latter two are uncommon in VA – in the mountains) Elfins: eastern pine elfin (uncommon in DC area), brown elfin, & Henry's elfin (latter two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA; Henry's elfin prefers to nectar on <i>Cercis</i> flowers when available) Hairstreaks: gray hairstreak & juniper (olive) hairstreak (uncommon in DC area) Skippers: dreamy duskywing, juvenal's duskywing, & sleepy duskywing (rare in DC area)
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> (pagoda dogwood) & <i>C. florida</i> (flowering dogwood)	Spring azure – preferred host is <i>Cornus florida</i> but may be found on other dogwoods	Adult – American snout (uncommon in DC area & VA). Occasionally question mark & red-spotted purple feed on nectar. Hairstreaks: white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list) & banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area; reported on small-flowered dogwood so possibly <i>C. alternifolia</i>)

<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum, C. viridis, & C. crus-galli</i> (hawthorn; naturalistic use only for the last species)	Red-spotted purple, striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & harvester (an unusual species that feeds on woolly aphids as larvae; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	Adult – juvenal’s duskywing, Henry’s elfin (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & harvester (an unusual species that mostly feeds on aphid honeydew as adults; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (witch hazel)	Striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & harvester (an unusual species that feeds on woolly aphids as larvae; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	Adult - harvester (an unusual species that mostly feeds on aphid honeydew as adults; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> (sweetbay magnolia; our native population ranges from deciduous to semi-evergreen)	Swallowtails: eastern tiger swallowtail (this tree is the preferred foodplant for this species in NC) & spicebush swallowtail	
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> (hoptree)	Swallowtails: eastern tiger swallowtail & giant swallowtail (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (blackhaw viburnum) & <i>V. rufidulum</i> (southern blackhaw viburnum)	Possibly spring azure	Adult - Baltimore (also called Baltimore checkerspot; S3S4 – uncommon in DC area) & pepper and salt skipper (once in DC area - concentrated in mountains; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list. Populations damaged by gypsy moth spraying). Sometimes little wood satyr & red-spotted purple feed on nectar. Blues: spring azure & Appalachian azure (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) Hairstreaks: striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list)

 **Deciduous and Evergreen Shrubs (evergreen shrubs noted)**

<i>Aesculus parviflora</i> (bottlebrush buckeye; native to SC, GA, & AL)		Adult – eastern tiger swallowtail
<i>Alnus serrulata</i> (hazel alder; naturalistic use)	Green comma (S3? – in the mountains) & harvester (an unusual species that feeds on woolly aphids as larvae; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	Adult - harvester (an unusual species that mostly feeds on aphid honeydew as adults; rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)
<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i> (running serviceberry or dwarf juneberry)	Red-spotted purple Hairstreaks: occasionally coral hairstreak (uncommon in DC area) & striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	Adult – spring azure & hessel’s hairstreak (S1 – in southeastern VA)

<i>Aralia spinosa</i> (Devil's walking stick)		Adult – excellent nectar plant. Many butterflies including eastern tiger swallowtail, monarch, & great purple hairstreak (S3 – once in DC area – hostplant is mistletoe). In Great Dismal Swamp in southeastern VA when in bloom – “an amazing feeding frenzy” (“Butterflies of the East Coast. An Observer’s Guide”)
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (groundsel bush)		Adult – ocola skipper in coastal areas (uncommon in DC area & VA)
<i>Castanea pumila</i> (chinkapin; this plant has been hard to establish at Green Spring in woodland settings during dry years – needs careful attention to watering when young)		Adult - yehl skipper (S3 – in southeastern VA) Hairstreaks: banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area), striped hairstreak, southern hairstreak (the latter two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), oak hairstreak (also called northern hairstreak or ‘northern’ southern hairstreak – S3 - range uncertain), & king’s hairstreak (S2S3 – in southeastern VA)
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i> (New Jersey tea; naturalistic use – needs excellent drainage & drier sites to do well)	Summer azure & mottled duskywing (S1S3 – once in DC area – scattered throughout VA)	Adult – Excellent nectar plant. Numerous species including American lady, red admiral, spring azure, many hairstreaks, many skippers (including duskywings), & occasionally mourning cloak.
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> (buttonbush)		Adult – Excellent nectar plant. Numerous species including zebra swallowtail, painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA), hairstreaks, & skippers (including Horace’s duskywing).
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> (summersweet) Note: <i>C. acuminata</i> is a large shrub & best for moist woodland areas.		Adult - <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> is an excellent nectar plant - attracts numerous species. Both <i>Clethra</i> species reported to attract great purple hairstreak (S3 – once in DC area – hostplant is mistletoe).
<i>Cornus sericea</i> (redosier dogwood), <i>C. amomum</i> (silky dogwood), & <i>C. racemosa</i> (gray dogwood, racemose dogwood) – the last two species are best for naturalistic use in our area	Spring azure – the tree <i>Cornus florida</i> is preferred but other <i>Cornus</i> may be eaten; <i>C. racemosa</i> - larvae of summer azure	Adult – American snout (uncommon in DC area & VA). Sometimes question mark & red-spotted purple feed on nectar. Hairstreaks: banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area; found on small-flowered dogwoods) & white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list).
<i>Corylus cornuta</i> (beaked hazelnut; naturalistic use)	Early hairstreak (S3 - mostly in the mountains)	
<i>Gaylussacia frondosa</i> (dangleberry, a type of huckleberry; naturalistic use)	Elfins: Henry’s elfin & brown elfin (both are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	Adult - brown elfin (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)

Hydrangea arborescens (wild hydrangea)		Adult – Edwards' hairstreak (S3S4 - rare in DC area) Skippers: golden-banded skipper (S3 - may not be in DC area anymore). Silver-spotted skipper in Illinois.
Ilex decidua (possumhaw holly), I. glabra (inkberry; evergreen), & I. verticillata (winterberry holly) Note: evergreen I. vomitoria (yaupon holly) performs well in southeastern VA (native there)	American holly azure (also called Atlantic [or holly] azure; a coastal plain species – on edge of its range here)	
Itea virginica (Virginia sweetspire)	Hostplant along the VA coast for American holly azure (also called Atlantic [or holly] azure; a coastal plain butterfly – on edge of its range here)	Adult – no species listed but many references list it as a nectar plant (but not Missouri Botanical Garden)
Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel; evergreen)		Adult – long dash (S1? – in mountains) Fritillaries: great spangled fritillary & Atlantis fritillary (S2 - in mountains)
Lindera benzoin (spicebush)	Swallowtails: eastern tiger swallowtail & spicebush swallowtail	Adult - spring azure & brown elfin (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)
Morella (Myrica) cerifera (wax myrtle; evergreen) Note: M. pensylvanica (northern bayberry) is an excellent deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub but do not know if red-banded hairstreak can feed on its fallen leaves.	Red-banded hairstreak feed on fallen, rotting leaves of Morella cerifera (butterfly is common in the DC area but the plant is not)	
Photinia pyrifolia (Aronia arbutifolia – both species usually sold under old names; red chokeberry) & Photinia (A.) melanocarpa (black chokeberry)	Hairstreaks: occasionally coral hairstreak (uncommon in DC area) & striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)	
Physocarpus opulifolius (ninebark)		Adult – Fritillaries: great spangled fritillary & Aphrodite fritillary (sometimes in DC area but mostly in the mountains)
Rhododendron species (native azaleas): R. arborescens , R. atlanticum , R. calendulaceum , R. canescens (native to NC, KY, TN & other southern states), R. cumberlandense , R. periclymenoides (formerly nudiflorum), R. prinophyllum , & R. viscosum	Striped hairstreak, brown elfin (first two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & occasionally gray comma (not found in DC area - uncommon in the mountains of VA; especially found on Rhododendron periclymenoides)	Adult – Skippers: sleepy duskywing (rare in DC area) & long dash (S1? – in the mountains) Swallowtails: eastern tiger swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail, pipevine swallowtail (uncommon in DC area), giant swallowtail (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & palamedes swallowtail (normally found south of here on the coastal plain – rare in DC area)

<p>Rhus copallina (copallinum; shining sumac) & R. hirta (typhina; staghorn sumac).</p> <p>Note: R. aromatica (fragrant sumac) is just listed as a hostplant for caterpillars in some references (Missouri Botanical Garden says it is a butterfly plant but <i>R. aromatica</i> had no adult butterflies in Illinois study).</p>	<p>Red-banded hairstreak likes to eat fallen, rotting leaves.</p>	<p>Adult –</p> <p>Hairstreaks on R. hirta: banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area), striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & Edwards’ hairstreak (S3S4 - rare in DC area)</p> <p>Hairstreaks on Rhus species: red-banded hairstreak, hickory hairstreak (S2S4 - once in DC area), & white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list)</p>
<p>Rubus odoratus (flowering raspberry; naturalistic use) - this species is the most ornamental of the genus</p>		<p>Adult - many butterfly species reported on Rubus species in general but no information about what specifically nectars on this raspberry</p>
<p>Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis (S. canadensis) (common elderberry)</p>		<p>Adult – banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area)</p>
<p>Spiraea alba var. latifolia (white meadowsweet or spirea)</p>	<p>Possibly summer azure</p>	<p>Adult – Good nectar plant at Green Spring.</p> <p>Atlantis fritillary (S2 – in mountains) & two-spotted skipper (S2 – in mountains & southeastern VA). Occasionally red-spotted purple.</p> <p>Hairstreaks: red-banded hairstreak, banded hairstreak (uncommon in DC area), striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & Edwards’ hairstreak (S3S4 – rare in DC area)</p>
<p>Vaccinium corymbosum (the large-fruited blueberry that people eat) & V. stamineum (blueberry; naturalistic use). V. pallidum is a common species in the wild in VA & MD, & also other species – preserve them where you find them.</p>	<p>Striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA). Red-spotted purple on Vaccinium stamineum.</p> <p>Elfins: brown elfin & Henry’s elfin (both species are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Note: "Butterflies of the East Coast. An Observer’s Guide" says that spring azure does not feed on <i>Vaccinium</i>: only the northern azure does, which is found in New Jersey north. However, the VA Rare Animal List calls this butterfly the northern spring azure & says its status is uncertain in VA.</p>	<p>Adult – good nectar plants. Zebra swallowtail & hessel’s hairstreak (S1 – in southeastern VA)</p> <p>Blues: spring azure & American holly azure (also called Atlantic [or holly] azure - a coastal plain species that is on edge of its range here)</p> <p>Skippers: dreamy duskywing, juvenal’s duskywing, silver-spotted skipper, sleepy duskywing (rare in DC area), & confusing cloudywing (also called confused cloudywing – S2S4 – possibly gone from DC area)</p> <p>Elfins: eastern pine elfin (uncommon in DC area), brown elfin (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), hoary elfin (S1S3 – in mountains), & frosted elfin (S2? – rare in DC area)</p>

<p><i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>, <i>V. cassinoides</i> (<i>V. nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i> in USDA), <i>V. dentatum</i>, <i>V. lentago</i>, & <i>V. nudum</i> (var. <i>nudum</i> in USDA) (viburnum) Note: <i>V. dentatum</i> & <i>V. nudum</i> are the best plants for more traditional gardens – others best for naturalistic use</p>	<p>Baltimore (also called Baltimore checkerspot; S3S4 – uncommon in DC area; can feed on <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> var. <i>lucidum</i> [<i>V. reconitum</i> in USDA] after overwintering on other plants)</p> <p>Possibly spring azure</p> <p><i>V. acerifolium</i> & possibly other species host to Henry’s elfin (rare in DC & uncommon in VA)</p>	<p>Adult – good nectar plants. Baltimore (also called Baltimore checkerspot; S3S4 – uncommon in DC area) & pepper and salt skipper (once in DC area - concentrated in mountains; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list. Populations damaged by gypsy moth spraying). Sometimes red-spotted purple.</p> <p>Blues: spring azure & Appalachian azure (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Hairstreaks: striped hairstreak (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & white M hairstreak (rare in DC area; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list)</p>
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Herbaceous Perennials or Wildflowers

<p><i>Actaea racemosa</i> (formerly <i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> – sold under old name; black bugbane, fairy candles, or black snakeroot)</p>	<p>Blues: Appalachian azure (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & summer azure (feeds on flowers buds but dies if eats leaves)</p>	<p>Adult – have seen eastern tiger swallowtail at Green Spring</p>
<p><i>Agastache nepetoides</i> (catnip giant hyssop)</p>		<p>Adult – monarch</p>
<p><i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i> & <i>A. virginica</i> (pussytoes; naturalistic use)</p>	<p>Brushfoots: American lady & painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA)</p>	<p>Adult – eastern pine elfin & juniper (olive) hairstreak (both are uncommon in DC area)</p>
<p><i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> (wild columbine)</p>	<p>Columbine duskywing (S1S3 – in mountains)</p>	
<p><i>Aruncus dioicus</i> (goatsbeard)</p>	<p>Dusky azure (uncommon in VA - in mountains)</p>	
<p><i>Asclepias</i> (milkweed): best plants for garden use are <i>A. incarnata</i> (swamp milkweed) & <i>A. tuberosa</i> (butterfly weed). Other species for gardeners: <i>A. exaltata</i> (tall milkweed; lovely but harder to purchase than first two) & <i>A. syriaca</i> (common milkweed; best for naturalistic use – keeps spreading by deep rhizomes). Note: <i>A. verticillata</i> (whorled milkweed) is not very vigorous in gardens but nice fine-textured foliage. <i>A. purpurascens</i> (purple milkweed) is a beautiful species but imperiled in VA, & endangered or threatened in many states. New England Wild Flower Society sells propagated plants, & a few native plant nurseries sell propagated plants.</p>	<p>Monarch</p>	<p>Adult – excellent nectar plants - numerous butterfly species</p>

<p>Aster (old name that is still commonly used; botanists have now divided into different genera): species that perform well in gardens in our area include <i>A. cordifolius</i> (<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i> – heart-leaved aster), <i>A. divaricatus</i> (<i>Eurybia divaricata</i> – white wood aster), <i>A. laevis</i> (<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i> – smooth blue aster), <i>A. lateriflorus</i> (<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i> – calico aster), <i>A. macrophyllus</i> (<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i> – largeleaf aster), <i>A. (Symphotrichum) novae-angliae</i> (New England aster), <i>A. oblongifolius</i> (<i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i> – shale barren aster), & <i>A. umbellatus</i> (<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i> – tall flat-topped white aster). Many of these asters reseed readily.</p> <p>Note: <i>A. linariifolius</i> (<i>Ionactis linariifolius</i> – stiff-leaved aster) & <i>A. (Eurybia) spectabilis</i> (eastern showy aster) are small asters that don't like crowding & need excellent drainage.</p>	<p>Small asters could host the dainty sulphur (found in a tiny area of VA in mountains).</p> <p>Brushfoots: silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA) & pearl crescent - found on <i>Aster dumosus</i> (<i>Symphotrichum dumosum</i> – rice button aster), <i>A. laevis</i>, <i>A. lateriflorus</i>, <i>A. pilosus</i> (<i>Symphotrichum pilosum</i> – hairywhite oldfield aster), & a few others. The pearl crescent does not feed on <i>A. divaricatus</i>, <i>A. (Symphotrichum) novi-belgii</i> (New York aster), or <i>A. umbellatus</i>.</p>	<p>Adult – excellent nectar plants - numerous butterfly species</p> <p>The shade-loving <i>Aster divaricatus</i> does not attract as many butterflies in the fall as the sun-loving asters (from Alonso Abugattas at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington).</p> <p>Many aster species that are excellent nectar plants are best in naturalistic settings, such as <i>A. dumosus</i>, <i>A. novi-belgii</i>, & <i>A. pilosus</i>.</p>
<p><i>Baptisia australis</i> (wild blue indigo)</p> <p>Note: <i>B. alba</i> (wild white indigo) is a beautiful plant but no special mention of it as a hostplant for caterpillars.</p>	<p>Eastern tailed-blue & frosted elfin (S2? - rare in DC area)</p> <p>Skippers: wild indigo duskywing & hoary edge (uncommon in DC area & VA)</p> <p>Sulphurs: orange sulphur & southern dogface (listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list; found south of Fairfax County)</p>	<p>Adult – <i>Baptisia alba</i> var. <i>macrophylla</i> (<i>B. leucantha</i>) attracted cloudless sulphur in Illinois, & the Missouri Botanical Garden lists this species as a butterfly plant</p> <p><i>B. australis</i> attracted no butterflies in Illinois, but listed as a butterfly plant at the Missouri Botanical Garden.</p>
<p><i>Boltonia asteroides</i> (boltonia, eastern doll's-daisy)</p>		<p>Adult – including skippers at Green Spring</p>
<p><i>Cardamine concatenata</i> (<i>Dentaria laciniata</i>; cutleaf toothwort; naturalistic use). <i>C. diphylla</i> is also commercially available.</p>	<p>Whites: falcate orangetip (uncommon in DC area) & West Virginia white (S3 - in mountains; rare in part due to garlic mustard invasion – females lay their eggs on this exotic invasive & caterpillars die when eat it)</p>	<p>Adult – dusky azure (uncommon in VA - in the mountains)</p> <p>Whites: falcate orangetip (uncommon in DC area) & West Virginia white (S3 - in mountains; rare in part due to garlic mustard invasion – females lay their eggs on this exotic invasive & caterpillars die when eat it)</p>
<p><i>Chelone obliqua</i> (pink turtlehead; the best pink species), <i>C. alba</i> (white turtlehead), & <i>C. lyonii</i> (pink turtlehead; native to NC, WV, TN & other southern states; not nearly as good a garden plant as <i>C. obliqua</i> & often misidentified in the nursery trade)</p>	<p>Brushfoots: common buckeye (feeds on these <i>Chelone</i> species but rarely eats <i>Chelone</i> in NC so may be true in VA also) & Baltimore (also called Baltimore checkerspot; S3S4 – uncommon in DC area; feeds on <i>Chelone glabra</i>)</p>	<p>Adult – have seen monarch at Green Spring</p>

<p>Claytonia virginica (spring beauty; naturalistic use)</p>		<p>Adult – excellent nectar plant - many butterfly species in early spring. Falcate orangetip (uncommon in DC area) & juniper (olive) hairstreak (uncommon in DC area).</p> <p>Skippers: dreamy duskywing, juvenal’s duskywing, & cobweb skipper (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Mostly mountain species - Early hairstreak (S3) & grizzled skipper (also called Appalachian grizzled skipper – S1S2 – once in DC area. Populations damaged by gypsy moth & mosquito spraying).</p> <p>Blues: dusky azure & silvery blue (both are uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Whites: West Virginia white (S3 – rare in part due to garlic mustard invasion - females lay their eggs on this exotic invasive & caterpillars die when eat it) & Olympic marble (also called Olympia marble - S2S3)</p>
<p>Coreopsis auriculata, C. gladiata (C. helianthoides; native to NC & southeastern U.S.), C. major, C. tripteris, & C. verticillata</p> <p>Note: a New England Wild Flower Society butterfly publication said <i>C. verticillata</i> ‘Moonbeam’ & ‘Golden Showers’ do not attract butterflies</p>		<p>Adult - listed as butterfly plants by Missouri Botanical Garden.</p> <p>Coreopsis major in Ohio – attracts eastern-tailed blue, pearl crescent, red admiral, spring azure, & viceroy.</p>
<p>Delphinium exaltatum (tall delphinium) & D. tricorne (dwarf larkspur; only buy propagated plants, not wild collected plants)</p>		<p>Adult – no information from our area. Delphinium tricorne in Illinois: black swallowtail, eastern tiger swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail, monarch, clouded sulphur, silver-spotted skipper, & zabulon skipper.</p> <p>D. exaltatum is listed as attracting butterflies by the Missouri Botanical Garden.</p>
<p>Echinacea purpurea (eastern purple coneflower; easiest species to grow)</p> <p>Note: <i>E. pallida</i> (pale purple coneflower) is more drought tolerant but not as long lived, & doesn’t appear to attract as many butterflies. The above 2 species are naturalized in VA.</p> <p>The true VA native is E. laevigata (smooth purple coneflower), which is imperiled in VA, federally endangered, & hard to grow. Other <i>Echinacea</i> species need to be grown away from wild populations of this plant.</p>		<p>Adult – Echinacea purpurea is a good butterfly plant. Attracts many butterflies including great spangled fritillary (loves E. purpurea at Green Spring) & eastern tiger swallowtail.</p> <p>Skippers: tawny-edged skipper (uncommon in DC area) & dotted skipper (rare in VA – in the Piedmont)</p>

<p><i>Erigeron pulchellus</i> (Robin's plantain; best for naturalistic use)</p> <p>Note: White-flowered species such as <i>E. philadelphicus</i> (fleabane) probably more commonly used by butterflies (less ornamental than <i>E. pulchellus</i>).</p>		<p>Adult – juvenal's duskywing reported in Illinois.</p> <p>Blues: silvery blue (uncommon in VA – in mountains). Eastern tailed-blue also reported in Illinois.</p>
<p><i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> (rattlesnake master)</p>		<p>Adult – red-banded hairstreak & American snout (uncommon in the DC area & VA) are some of the butterflies it attracts at Green Spring</p>
<p><i>Eupatorium</i> species (some now in new genera but sold under older name). The best garden plants: <i>Conoclinium (Eupatorium) coelestinum</i> (blue mistflower), <i>E. perfoliatum</i> (boneset), <i>Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus (Eupatorium fistulosum)</i>, & <i>E. purpureum</i> (last 2 are the most common species of Joe-pye weed in VA – the similar <i>Eupatoriadelphus maculatus [Eupatorium maculatum]</i> is rare here).</p> <p>Note: Many cultivars of Joe-pye weed like 'Gateway' & 'Big Umbrella' also attract lots of butterflies.</p> <p><i>Eupatoriadelphus dubius (Eupatorium dubium)</i> 'Little Joe' attracts butterflies as well.</p> <p>Do not grow <i>Ageratina altissima (Eupatorium rugosum)</i>; white snakeroot) in gardens – invasive, very poisonous to humans, & slightly less poisonous to livestock.</p>		<p>Adult – numerous species of butterflies – excellent nectar plants.</p> <p>Some other <i>Eupatorium</i> species that attract lots of butterflies are good for naturalistic use in meadows, such as <i>E. serotinum</i> (lateflowering thoroughwort).</p>
<p><i>Geranium maculatum</i> (wild geranium)</p>		<p>Adult – skippers reported in Illinois & Ohio</p> <p>Blues: dusky azure (uncommon in VA - in mountains); eastern tailed-blue reported in Illinois & Ohio</p>
<p><i>Helenium autumnale</i> (Helen's flower, dogtooth daisy, or sneezeweed – doesn't cause sneezing!)</p>	<p>Dainty sulphur – found in a tiny area of VA in mountains</p>	<p>Adult - northern metalmark (S2S3 – in the mountains)</p> <p>Skippers: Horaces's duskywing, fiery skipper (uncommon in DC area & in VA), dion skipper (uncommon in DC area – found in small colonies with low population densities throughout its range), & Dukes' skipper (S2 - in southeastern VA)</p>

<p>Helianthus angustifolius (swamp sunflower), H. atrorubens (purpledisk sunflower – best for naturalistic use), H. divaricatus (woodland sunflower; spreads quite a bit), & H. strumosus (roughleaf sunflower) Note: H. tuberosus (Jerusalem artichoke) is best left in the wild unless you like to eat the tubers – aggressive spreader</p>	<p>Brushfoots: silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA) & painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA)</p>	<p>Adult – wild indigo duskywing Brushfoots: common buckeye & silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA)</p>
<p>Heliopsis helianthoides (false sunflower)</p>		<p>Adult - Missouri Botanical Garden lists as a butterfly plant. In Ohio: Atlantis fritillary (S2 – found in mountains), European skipper (introduced – uncommon in DC area), & early hairstreak (S3 – mostly in the mountains)</p>
<p>Hibiscus laevis & H. moscheutos (hardy hibiscus or rose mallow) Note: H. coccineus & hybrids (red hibiscus) perform well - the species is native to GA & the deep south but naturalized further north</p>	<p>On Hibiscus laevis in Illinois: gray hairstreak eat flower buds & seeds, while common checkered-skipper (uncommon in DC area), & painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA) feed on foliage</p>	<p>Adult – Hibiscus moscheutos: cloudless sulphur (rare in DC area & VA – migrates from states further south for a brief time – September in our area) & Dukes' skipper (S2 - in southeastern VA)</p>
<p>Iris versicolor (harlequin blue flag or northern blue flag – native to central & western VA) & I. virginica (Virginia iris, southern blue flag – native to eastern VA)</p>		<p>Adult – possibly silver-spotted skipper (reported in NY) Other butterflies mostly found outside DC area: palamedes swallowtail (normally found south of here on the coastal plain – rare in DC area) & bronze copper (S1 – eastern shore of VA) Skippers: two-spotted skipper (S2 – in mountains & southeastern VA) & long dash (S1? -mountains)</p>
<p>Kosteletskya virginica (seashore mallow; don't crowd it in gardens; likes moist sites but doesn't need a wet site)</p>		<p>Adult</p>
<p>Liatis aspera & L. spicata (liatris or blazing star; the first species needs dry, open sites to thrive – has not done well in heavier soils with crowding & irrigation at Green Spring, but loves loamy soil in my home garden - I seldom irrigate). Other native species like L. pilosa (graminifolia) have been harder to grow in gardens in our area.</p>		<p>Adult – excellent nectar plants. Numerous species reported including fritillaries, monarch, skippers, sulphurs, & swallowtails. Brushfoots: common buckeye & painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA)</p>

<p>Lobelia cardinalis (cardinal flower) & L. siphilitica (great blue lobelia)</p>		<p>Adult – good nectar plants. Lobelia cardinalis attracts spicebush swallowtail, pipevine swallowtail (uncommon in DC area), & cloudless sulphur (rare in DC area); in Illinois also attracted black swallowtail.</p> <p>L. siphilitica - Eric Raun in the Washington Area Butterfly Club says many butterflies on his plants in suburban MD. Monarch & pipevine swallowtail reported in Illinois (the latter is uncommon in DC area).</p>
<p>Mimulus ringens (Alleghany monkey flower; naturalistic use)</p>	<p>Common buckeye</p>	
<p>Monarda didyma (bee balm), M. fistulosa (wild bergamot), & M. clinopodia (basil bee balm)</p> <p>Note: M. punctata (eastern horse mint) is short-lived compared to other species.</p>		<p>Adult – Monarda fistulosa attracts the most butterflies: common wood nymph, gray hairstreak, monarch, & silver-spotted skipper.</p> <p>Fritillaries: great spangled fritillary & Diana (S3 – found in mountains).</p> <p>Swallowtails: eastern tiger swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail, & pipevine swallowtail (uncommon in DC area).</p> <p>M. clinopodia reported to attract Atlantis fritillary (S2 – found in mountains).</p> <p>M. didyma - hickory hairstreak (S2S4 – once in DC area). Swallowtails reported in Illinois & Ohio.</p> <p>M. punctata may attract fewer butterflies than other species (silver-spotted skipper observed in SC).</p>
<p>Packera aurea (Senecio aureus – still sold under old name; golden ragwort)</p>	<p>Painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA)</p> <p>Note: northern metalmark (S2S3 - in the mountains) most likely on Packera obovata (Senecio obovatus)</p>	<p>Possibly adult - listed as a butterfly plant by the Missouri Botanical Garden. Zabulon skipper reported in Illinois.</p>
<p>Penstemon digitalis (white penstemon), P. hirsutus (hairy penstemon), & P. laevigatus (eastern smooth penstemon)</p>	<p>Brushfoots:</p> <p>Penstemon hirsutus – possibly larvae of Baltimore (also called Baltimore checkerspot; not listed as a hostplant on the MD butterfly list so may not be commonly used; S3S4 – uncommon in DC area). P. laevigatus – reported in NC for common buckeye.</p>	<p>Adult - Penstemon digitalis visited some by butterflies (Missouri Botanical Garden).</p>

<p><i>Phlox divaricata</i>, <i>P. glaberrima</i>, <i>P. nivalis</i> (rock garden use – likes sandy soils & excellent drainage), <i>P. paniculata</i>, <i>P. pilosa</i>, & <i>P. subulata</i> (phlox)</p> <p>Note: <i>P. stolonifera</i> is not listed as a butterfly plant by the Missouri Botanical Garden.</p>		<p>Adult – excellent nectar plants – attract numerous species</p> <p><i>Phlox divaricata</i> is a favorite of swallowtails in the spring.</p> <p><i>P. subulata</i> in the wild - cobweb skipper (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & grizzled skipper (also called Appalachian grizzled skipper – S1S2; once in DC area – in mountains)</p> <p>Creeping phlox species like <i>P. nivalis</i> & <i>P. subulata</i> attract fewer butterflies in the spring than <i>P. divaricata</i> (from Alonso Abugattas at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington).</p> <p><i>P. glaberrima</i> & <i>P. pilosa</i> attract many butterfly species in Illinois.</p> <p>Phlox species: pipevine swallowtail (uncommon in DC area) & possibly other swallowtails, juniper (olive) hairstreak (uncommon in DC area), & Olympic marble (also called Olympia marble; S2S3 – found in mountains)</p> <p>Elfins: eastern pine elfin (uncommon in DC area), Henry’s elfin, & brown elfin (latter two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Skippers: common roadside-skipper, dusted skipper (first two species are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), Indian skipper (uncommon in VA – mostly found in mountains), columbine duskywing (S1S3 - in mountains), & pepper and salt skipper (once in DC area - concentrated in mountains; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list. Populations damaged by gypsy moth spraying).</p>
<p><i>Physostegia virginiana</i> (false dragonhead)</p>		<p>Adult – pearl crescent. Clouded sulphur & monarch reported in Illinois. Probably not commonly used – Missouri Botanical Garden does not consider it to be a butterfly plant.</p>

<p><i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i>, <i>P. montanum</i>, <i>P. muticum</i>, <i>P. tenuifolium</i>, & <i>P. virginianum</i> (mountain mint; last 2 species are not as showy as the others)</p>		<p>Adult – numerous butterfly species – excellent nectar plants. Eastern tiger swallowtail & regal fritillary (S1 – possibly gone from DC area). Pearl crescent reported in Illinois.</p> <p>Skippers: little glassywing, silver-spotted skipper, southern cloudywing (uncommon in DC area), ocola skipper (uncommon in DC area & VA), & Delaware skipper (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA).</p> <p>Hairstreaks: red-banded hairstreak & juniper (olive) hairstreak (uncommon in DC area)</p>
<p><i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>speciosa</i> (eastern or orange coneflower) & <i>R. laciniata</i> (cutleaf coneflower).</p> <p>Note: the tough but showy <i>R. subtomentosa</i> (sweet coneflower; native to TN, NC, & the central U.S.) does not attract butterflies according to the Missouri Botanical Garden & to studies in Illinois.</p>	<p>Silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA) - this plant may be more common as a hostplant in the West, though, according to “Butterflies of the East Coast. An Observer’s Guide.” “Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History” says it may be a possible hostplant in our area, though.</p>	<p>Adult - <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>speciosa</i> is a good butterfly plant at at Green Spring in midsummer – butterflies it attracts include Horace’s duskywing & red-banded hairstreak (possibly attracts some of the same species that <i>R. hirta</i> attracts – see biennial plant section). New England Wild Flower Society says <i>Rudbeckia</i> species attract fritillaries, monarch, & pearl crescent.</p> <p>Fritillaries: meadow fritillary (uncommon in DC area) & silver-bordered fritillary (S2 - in a few Piedmont & mountain counties)</p>
<p><i>Ruellia humilis</i> (wild petunia; hasn’t been very vigorous for us in shady areas but does well at U.S. Botanic Garden in a sunny area)</p>	<p>Common buckeye</p>	
<p><i>Salvia lyrata</i> (lyreleaf salvia) & <i>S. azurea</i> (azure blue salvia; native to TN, KY, & other southern states)</p>		<p><i>Salvia lyrata</i> – occasionally adult (pipevine swallowtail - uncommon in DC area). Missouri Botanical Garden lists as a butterfly plant.</p> <p><i>S. azurea</i> - adult (Missouri Botanical Garden lists as a butterfly plant; monarch, Peck’s skipper, & silver-spotted skipper in Illinois).</p>
<p><i>Sedum ternatum</i> (wild stonecrop; shade lover)</p> <p>Note: VA natives that like full sun & rock walls (dry soil) – <i>S. glaucophyllum</i> & <i>S. (Hylotelephium) telephioides</i> preferred by USDA)</p>		<p>Adult - West Virginia white (S3 - in the mountains; rare in part due to garlic mustard invasion – females lay their eggs on this exotic invasive & caterpillars die when eat it)</p>
<p><i>Senna (Cassia) hebecarpa</i> & <i>S. (Cassia) marilandica</i> (wild senna; naturalistic use - reseeds readily)</p>	<p>Sulphurs: cloudless sulphur (rare in DC area), sleepy orange (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & orange-barred sulphur (in a few mountain counties - wanders in occasionally from the south)</p>	<p>Adult- Sulphurs: cloudless sulfur (rare in DC area), little yellow, & sleepy orange (the latter two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p>

<p>Silphium species (rosinweed): S. perfoliatum (cup plant; reseeds readily – not for tidy gardeners), & S. laciniatum (compass plant: native to OH & the central U.S. - naturalized in VA) Note: S. terebinthinaceum (prairie dock) does not attract adult butterflies at the Missouri Botanical Garden or in Illinois. No information about the attractiveness of the following plants to adult butterflies is reported: S. trifoliatum (whorled rosinweed) & S. asteriscus (southern rosinweed; likes some shade).</p>	<p>Silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA)</p>	<p>Adult - S. perfoliatum attracts several butterfly species in Illinois, while S. laciniatum attracts an occasional monarch or sulphur species.</p>
<p>Solidago species (goldenrod): the best garden plants are S. caesia, S. flexicaulis (the first two are shade lovers), S. roanensis, S. rugosa, & S. sphacelata ‘Golden Fleece’ (the last three are sun lovers, although ‘Golden Fleece’ tolerates some shade as well). Note: S. sempervirens needs very dry soil & full sun or will be floppy. S. juncea is good for naturalistic use. S. simplex var. racemosa is nice for rock garden use but critically imperiled in VA – enjoy in nature & in public gardens. S. odora is beautiful & fragrant but needs sandier soils & excellent drainage (short-lived in heavier soils at Green Spring).</p>	<p>Silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA)</p>	<p>Adult – excellent nectar plants - attract numerous species in the fall. Many goldenrod species that are not good garden plants are lovely in meadows & other natural habitats. Note: not all goldenrods may attract butterflies: S. ulmifolia attracted no butterflies in Illinois study (grows well in light shade in the DC area).</p>
<p>Stokesia laevis (Stoke’s aster; native to NC & other southeastern states)</p>		<p>Adult - great spangled fritillary in NC (not a butterfly plant at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where the plant is not native)</p>
<p>Verbena hastata (swamp verbena or vervain; naturalistic use; a much taller plant than the following) Note: Glandularia canadensis (mock rose verbena or vervain) – was <i>Verbena</i> but USDA now prefers <i>Glandularia</i>; may just be naturalized in southeastern VA). This species attracts fewer butterflies in our area than <i>V. hastata</i>. Grow the wild type if you want to attract butterflies, not the more commonly available hybrids or cultivars such as ‘Homestead Purple’.</p>	<p>Common Buckeye</p>	<p>Adult – Verbena hastata is an excellent nectar plant. It attracts numerous butterflies, such as a large number of skipper species. Fritillaries: great spangled fritillary & meadow fritillary (uncommon in DC area) Swallowtails: zebra swallowtail & pipevine swallowtail (uncommon in DC area) Rare butterflies not found in the DC area: Great southern white (rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list – on Eastern Shore) & southern dogface (listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list - found south of Fairfax County)</p>

<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i> (wingstem; naturalistic use)	Silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area - concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA). Summer azure reported in Maryland.	Adult – summer azure & meadow fritillary (uncommon in DC area). Skippers also reported in Illinois.
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> & <i>V. gigantea</i> (ironweed)	American lady	Adult – excellent nectar plants - numerous butterfly species
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> (Culver's root)		Adult – Missouri Botanical Garden & New England Wild Flower say it is a butterfly plant.
<i>Viola canadensis</i>, <i>V. pubescens</i>, <i>V. sororia</i>, & <i>V. striata</i> (violet; naturalistic use) Note: Not all violets are easy to grow – <i>V. pedata</i> likes very dry, sunny sites & has been short-lived at Green Spring. Many of these fritillary butterflies are rare because of the destruction of their habitats, as well as poor habitat management practices in remaining natural areas (lack of fire in some habitats is an example).	On many <i>Viola</i> species: Fritillaries: great spangled fritillary, meadow fritillary (uncommon in DC area), Aphrodite fritillary (mostly in the mountains), Diana (S3 - in mountains), Atlantis fritillary (S2 - in mountains), & silver-bordered fritillary (S2 - in a few Piedmont & mountain counties) On <i>V. pedata</i> only - regal fritillary (S1 – possibly gone from DC area)	Adult – these <i>Viola</i> species (with the exception of <i>V. canadensis</i> – not in the study) reported to attract butterflies in Illinois (especially skippers). <i>Viola pedata</i> attracts many more adult butterflies because flowers are held horizontal to the ground (face up) & are easier for insects to land on. This species is an excellent nectar plant.
<i>Zizia aptera</i> (heart-leaved golden alexanders or meadow zizia) & <i>Z. aurea</i> (golden alexanders or golden zizia)	Possibly larvae - black swallowtail (this butterfly likes open spaces, not forest interiors) Note: exotic plants in the carrot family like Queen Anne's lace & parsley are commonly used as hostplants now.	Adult <i>Zizia aurea</i> - American copper, clouded sulphur, eastern tailed-blue, & pearl crescent in Illinois. Missouri Botanical Garden also lists <i>Z. aurea</i> as a butterfly plant <i>Zizia aptera</i> not listed as attracting adult butterflies at Missouri Botanical Garden or in Illinois.

🌿 Herbaceous Perennials That Are Not Highly Ornamental In Gardens But Valuable To Butterflies (You will not able to purchase some of these plants, so you may want to keep some if you have them.)

<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>, <i>A. cannabinum</i>, & their hybrid <i>A. x floribundum</i> (dogbane; spreads by suckering; good for meadows)		Adult - excellent nectar plants - numerous butterfly species
<i>Bidens aristosa</i>, <i>B. cernua</i>, & <i>B. frondosa</i> (tickseed sunflower or beggar-ticks; these are some of the species native to VA that are reported to attract butterflies) – nice for naturalistic use in meadows		Adult – various species including gray hairstreak, common checkered-skipper (uncommon in DC area), & silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA)
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> (false nettle; doesn't sting like true nettle)	Brushfoots: eastern comma, question mark, & red admiral	

<p><i>Desmodium canadense</i> (showy tick trefoil; seed is sold for meadow mixes; also have seen <i>D. cilare</i> & <i>D. paniculatum</i> available commercially)</p>	<p>Eastern tailed-blue</p> <p>Skippers: silver-spotted skipper, northern cloudywing, southern cloudywing (latter two are uncommon in DC area), hoary edge (uncommon in DC area & VA), long-tailed skipper (rare in DC area & probably uncommon statewide – rare in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list), & possibly confusing cloudywing (also called confused cloudywing; S2S4 - possibly gone from DC area)</p>	<p>Adult –</p> <p>Skippers: common checkered-skipper, swarthy skipper (first two are uncommon in DC area), & long dash (S1? – in mountains)</p>
<p><i>Fragaria virginiana</i> (wild strawberry; white-flowered & sweet fruit)</p> <p>Note: Wild strawberry is often confused with Indian strawberry (<i>Duchesnea indica</i>), an Asian exotic invasive – yellow flowers & fruit is watery & tasteless.</p>	<p>Painted lady (uncommon in DC area & VA) & grizzled skipper (also called Appalachian grizzled skipper – S1S2; once in DC area – in mountains)</p>	<p>Adult – eastern tailed-blue & hoary elfin (S1S3 – in mountains)</p> <p>Skippers: dreamy duskywing, cobweb skipper, dusted skipper (latter two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), & Carolina roadside skipper (S3S4 – southeastern VA)</p>
<p><i>Lespedeza</i> species – native species such as <i>L. capitata</i> (roundhead lespedeza or bush clover; seed is sold for meadow mixes) - have also seen other species available commercially including <i>L. x nuttallii</i> (<i>L. hirta</i> x <i>violacea</i>) & <i>L. virginica</i></p>	<p>Eastern tailed-blue & gray hairstreak</p> <p>Skippers: silver-spotted skipper, northern cloudywing, southern cloudywing (latter two uncommon in DC area), hoary edge (uncommon in DC area & VA), & possibly confusing cloudywing (also called confused cloudywing; S2S4 - possibly gone from DC area)</p>	<p>Adult - considered to be a butterfly plant by the Missouri Botanical Garden</p>
<p><i>Ludwigia alternifolia</i> (seedbox; nice small yellow flowers in summer & beautiful brown fruit in winter)</p>		<p>Possibly adult (eastern tailed-blue in Illinois)</p>

 **Herbaceous Perennial Plant Solely for Water Gardening – suitable for small home ponds**

<p><i>Pontedaria cordata</i> (pickerelweed; suitable for small ponds; a perennial)</p>		<p>Adult – excellent nectar plant. Major nectar source for butterflies in wetland habitats – numerous species including palamedes swallowtail (south of here on coastal plain- rare in DC area) & many skipper species</p>
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🦋 Ornamental Grasses (All these plants are perennials - grasses that need to grow in wet soil are not included here, although many are excellent hostplants for caterpillars.)

The preferred hostplants for butterfly species are listed here. However, these butterfly larvae may feed on other grass species also. There is limited suitable habitat for many of these butterflies in our area: we need more native grass meadows and much less frequent mowing!

<p>Andropogon (bluestem; generally best for naturalistic use): A. virginicus (broomsedge bluestem; tends to be short-lived in gardens so let reseed), A. ternarius (splitbeard bluestem; longer-lived in dry soils), A. glomeratus (bushy bluestem; needs constantly moist to wet sites, unlike most members of this genus which like drier soils; tends to be short-lived in gardens), & A. gerardii (big bluestem; tends to be floppy in gardens)</p> <p>Note: see <i>Schizachyrium</i> (once <i>Andropogon</i>) <i>scoparium</i> (little bluestem) below – best of the bluestems for garden use.</p>	<p>Common wood nymph</p> <p>Butterflies specifically listed for <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> (some will also feed on other bluestems): Skippers: Delaware skipper, dusted skipper, & cobweb skipper (all 3 are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA).</p> <p>Cobweb skipper also likes to feed on <i>A. glomeratus</i>.</p>	
<p>Chasmanthium latifolium (river oats; best for naturalistic use - reseeds readily)</p>	<p>Satyrs & Wood-Nymphs: northern pearly eye (uncommon in DC area & VA) & gemmed satyr (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA)</p> <p>Skippers: common roadside-skipper (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & pepper and salt skipper (once in DC area - concentrated in mountains; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list. Populations damaged by gypsy moth spraying)</p>	
<p>Elymus hystrix (<i>Hystrix patula</i>) (bottlebrush grass) & E. canadensis (Canada wild rye; mostly for quick groundcover use like meadow establishment) – naturalistic use for both species</p>	<p>Zabulon skipper & northern pearly eye (uncommon in DC area & VA)</p>	
<p>Eragrostis spectabilis (purple lovegrass; naturalistic use in dry or sandy soils)</p>	<p>Zabulon skipper</p>	


<p><i>Panicum virgatum</i> (switchgrass) Note: <i>Dichantheium (Panicum) clandestinum</i> (deer tongue grass) is best for naturalistic use</p>	<p>Northern pearly eye (uncommon in DC area & VA) Skippers: hobomok skipper, northern broken dash (first two are uncommon in DC area & VA), Delaware skipper (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), Indian skipper (uncommon in VA – mostly found in mountains), dotted skipper (listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list – reported in 2 Piedmont counties), & Leonard’s skipper (S3 in VA - rare in DC area). Possibly tawny-edged skipper (uncommon in DC area).</p>	
<p><i>Saccharum giganteum (Erianthus giganteus)</i>; giant plume grass) & <i>S. brevibarbe var. contortum (E. contortus)</i>; bent-awn plume grass)</p>	<p>Northern pearly eye (uncommon in DC area & VA) Skippers: Delaware skipper (rare in DC area & uncommon in VA) & possibly clouded skipper (uncommon in DC area & VA – <i>Saccharum</i> species more commonly eaten in southern part of range)</p>	
<p><i>Schizachyrium (Andropogon) scoparium</i> (little bluestem; the best bluestem for garden use – long lived & good performer)</p>	<p>Common wood nymph Skippers: crossline skipper, swarthy skipper (uncommon in DC area), cobweb skipper, dusted skipper (latter two are rare in DC area & uncommon in VA), Leonard’s skipper (S3 - rare in DC area), & Indian skipper (uncommon in VA - mostly found in mountains)</p>	
<p><i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (Indian grass; reseeds readily; best for naturalistic use)</p>	<p>Pepper and salt skipper (once in DC area - concentrated in mountains; listed as rare in VA in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list. Populations damaged by gypsy moth spraying)</p>	
<p><i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i> (prairie dropseed; best for naturalistic use)</p>	<p>Leonard’s skipper (S3 - rare in DC area)</p>	
<p><i>Tridens flavus</i> (purpletop or redtop; best for naturalistic use - reseeds readily)</p>	<p>Common wood nymph Skippers: crossline skipper, little glassywing, & zabulon skipper</p>	

Note: *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (purple muhly, pink hair grass) & ***Tripsicum dactyloides*** (eastern gamagrass; naturalistic use) may possibly be larval foodplants in our area. Butterfly caterpillars did not feed on two other *Muhlenbergia* species in Illinois, but the caterpillar hostplants database developed by the Natural History Museum in Great Britain (www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/projects/hostplants/index.html) lists butterflies that are not found in Virginia on some *Muhlenbergia* species in North America. Purple muhly was mentioned in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden publication on butterflies (listed at the end of this information sheet). The skipper species that feed on *Tripsicum dactyloides* in Illinois and North Carolina are not found in Virginia.

Ornamental Sedges: most butterflies that specialize in wetland habitats are grass- or sedge-feeders as caterpillars. Upland sedge species that grow in moist to dry soils are not specifically listed as hostplants for caterpillars, but may be used. **Wetland sedge species for butterflies are beyond the scope of this information sheet.**

 **Vines (woody plants & herbaceous plants are listed)**

<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> (Dutchman's pipe or pipevine; woody)	Pipevine swallowtail (uncommon in DC area)	
<i>Mikania scandens</i> (climbing hempweed; herbaceous; needs moist soil; naturalistic use)		Adult – great purple hairstreak (S3 – once in DC area – hostplant is mistletoe) & other species
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i> (maypops) & <i>P. lutea</i> (yellow passionflower; both species are herbaceous)	Fritillaries: variegated fritillary (uncommon in DC area) & gulf fritillary (a southern species that is found in southern VA - prefers <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)	Adult - gulf fritillary (adults occasionally in the DC area but they don't reproduce here - I had one visit my garden in Hyattsville, MD for a couple of weeks in late summer one year)
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i> (Atlantic wisteria; woody)	Skippers: silver-spotted skipper & long-tailed skipper (rare in DC area & probably uncommon statewide – rare in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list). Possibly Horace's duskywing.	Adult – juvenal's duskywing

 **Herbaceous Vines That Aren't Commercially Available But Butterfly Plants (Please save some if you have them growing in your landscape!)**

<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i> (hog peanut) - an annual (sometimes perennial) vine or twining plant (herbaceous)	Skippers: silver-spotted skipper, northern cloudywing, possibly southern cloudywing (latter two are uncommon in the DC area), long-tailed skipper (rare in DC area & probably uncommon statewide – rare in 1997 but no longer on VA rare list), & golden-banded skipper (S3 - may not be in DC area anymore)	Possibly adult (none listed in Illinois)
<i>Ipomoea pandurata</i> (a perennial wild morning glory that is native to VA; herbaceous)		Adult (attracts butterflies with long tongues) - clouded skipper (uncommon in DC area & VA) & cloudless sulphur (rare in DC area & VA – migrates from states further south for a brief time – September in our area) In Illinois - spicebush swallowtail, pipevine swallowtail (uncommon in DC area), & zabulon skipper

 **Biennials**

<i>Campanulastrum americanum</i> (<i>Campanula americana</i> ; American bellflower or campanula; described as a winter annual or biennial – more biennial at Green Spring)		Possibly adult (painted lady & Hayhurst's scallopwing in Illinois – both are uncommon in DC area & VA)
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<p><i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> (Black-Eyed Susan; biennial or short-lived perennial) & <i>R. triloba</i> (three-lobed coneflower; biennial or short-lived perennial)</p> <p>Note: for butterfly gardening grow the wild form of <i>R. hirta</i>, not the cultivars.</p>		<p>Adult - <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> is a good nectar plant. It most commonly attracts sulphurs & pearl crescents in the DC area (from Denise Gibbs, Black Hill Nature Center, MD). Other possible butterflies: American lady, common wood nymph, & northern metalmark (S2S3 – in the mountains).</p> <p>Skippers: dreamy duskywing & silver-spotted skipper</p> <p>Brushfoots: Baltimore (also called Baltimore checkerspot; S3S4 - uncommon in DC area) & silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA)</p> <p>Fritillaries: meadow fritillary (uncommon in DC area) & silver-bordered fritillary (S2 - in a few Piedmont & mountain counties)</p> <p><i>R. triloba</i> reported to occasionally attract pearl crescent & silvery checkerspot (uncommon in DC area & concentrated in Piedmont & mountains of VA).</p>
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 **Annuals**

<p><i>Helenium amarum</i> (fine leaved sneezeweed – pretty but can get a bit weedy; naturalized in VA from further west)</p>		<p>Adult - little metalmark (S1 – in southeastern VA)</p>
<p><i>Impatiens capensis</i> (jewelweed; naturalistic use)</p>		<p>Adult - spicebush swallowtail</p>
<p><i>Pseudognaphalium (Gnaphalium) obtusifolium</i> (rabbit tobacco; naturalistic use)</p>	<p>American lady</p>	



ABOUT MOTHS

There are far more moth species than there are butterfly species. Many moths are not showy, but some species are very attractive. Moths have a similar life cycle to butterflies. Because of the complexity of moths, **moth information in this sheet is limited to clearwing moths, commonly called hummingbird moths. The hummingbird clearwing** (seen from March through June and August through October) **and the snowberry clearwing** (seen from March through August) **are found in Virginia.** These moths are easy to identify with transparent patches in their wings. These late risers (unlike hummingbirds) are frequently spotted nectaring on many flowers including bee balm, phlox, and blueberries. The adults hover much like miniature hummingbirds with antennae, and they are a joyous sight to behold with their high energy.

Adult moths have various feeding habits, depending upon the species. Some moths do not feed as adults and live off food reserves obtained during the larval stage. Adult moths that feed on nectar during the day, including clearwing moths, feed on the same plants as butterflies do. However, many moths are most active in the evening (dusk, nighttime, or even dawn, depending upon the species). Night blooming native plants that attract moths include

evening primrose species (*Oenothera biennis* and *O. argillicola*), eastern false aloe (*Manfreda virginica*), yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), and Joe-pye weed (*Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus* [*Eupatorium fistulosum*], *Eupatoriadelphus maculatus* [*E. maculatum*], and *Eupatorium purpureum*). Some moths also are attracted to sap that is sugary or fermented, and to overripe or rotting fruit.



NATIVE PLANTS FOR CLEARWING MOTH CATERPILLARS (Woody and Herbaceous Plants)

<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i> (eastern bluestar; herbaceous perennial)	Snowberry clearwing	
<i>Crataegus species</i> (hawthorn; see under small deciduous trees in the butterfly section above)	Hummingbird clearwing (reported but David Wagner hasn't observed - "Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History")	
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i> (bush honeysuckle; deciduous shrub; naturalistic use best)	Snowberry clearwing	
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> (trumpet honeysuckle; woody vine)	Snowberry clearwing & hummingbird clearwing	
<i>Prunus species</i> : <i>P. serotina</i> (black cherry; large tree), <i>P. americana</i> (wild plum; small tree), & <i>P. maritima</i> (beach plum; medium-sized shrub) – see under medium-sized to large deciduous trees in the butterfly section above	Hummingbird clearwing (reported but David Wagner hasn't observed - "Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History")	
<i>Viburnum species</i> (see under small deciduous trees & shrub sections in the butterfly portion above)	Hummingbird clearwing (the most common hostplants)	

Less ornamental plants that attract clearwing moth caterpillars – valuable for naturalistic use:

Apocynum androsaemifolium*, *A. cannabinum*, & their hybrid *A. x floribundum (dogbane; herbaceous plants that spread by suckers; nice in meadows)

Symphoricarpos albus* & *S. orbiculatus (snowberry; woody plants with nice fruit - best preserved in the wild – found in woodlands & thickets in VA)

Additional Resources For Butterflies and Moths

Noteworthy Butterfly and Moth Websites

- An outstanding website for extensive information and pictures of the butterflies and moths of Virginia and other states is **Butterflies and Moths of North America** (www.butterfliesandmoths.org). This website was originally developed by the U.S. Geological Survey.
- **eNature FieldGuides: Butterflies (and a Subsection on Moths)** by the National Wildlife Federation features the National Audubon Society online field guide for butterflies and moths (www.enature.com/fieldguides/intermediate.asp?curGroupID=2). The website has extensive information and good pictures of North American butterflies and moths.
- **American Beauties Native Plants** by the National Wildlife Federation has a sample butterfly garden design and plant list (www.abnativeplants.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.landscapePlans&recID=1). In addition, **Native Plants from American Beauties** (www.abnativeplants.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/plants.main/index.htm) has information and pictures of a number of native plants.

- Locally, the **Washington Area Butterfly Club** has an informative website tailored to our region (<http://users.sitestar.net/butterfly/>). For example, **Butterflies of Maryland: A Biological Summary and Checklist** (by Lynn Davidson and Richard H. Smith – updated January 2006) is an information-packed regional guide (http://users.sitestar.net/~jmfarron/MD_Biological_Summary.pdf). Eric Raun, a member of the Washington Area Butterfly Club, has a website about gardening for butterflies at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland (<http://mysite.verizon.net/vze8fvo3/id7.html>).
- For southeastern Virginia, **The Butterfly Society of Virginia** has a useful website for the Tidewater Region (www.butterflysocietyofva.org/).
- **“Notes on the Butterflies of North Carolina. 13th Approximation – March 2006”** (<http://207.4.179.38/nbnc/nbnc.html>) – a thorough approach to the butterflies of North Carolina with information that is also useful for our area.
- **Butterflies in Illinois: Illinois Wildflowers** (www.illinoiswildflowers.info) - This comprehensive website lists the vast number of insect species that visit mostly native plants in Illinois for larval food, and for pollen, nectar, or sap as adults (most plants are also native to Virginia). Not all of the listed adult butterflies are pollinators – some butterflies with short tongues obtain nectar from certain flowers but aren't able to pollinate them. It also has beautiful plant photographs and information about other wildlife including birds and mammals. Also from Illinois: **“Lake County Guide to Butterflies”** is a gorgeous, informative, and concise brochure with color pictures of several butterfly species also found in our area (www.lcfd.org/docs/media_pub_24325.pdf).
- **Butterflies in Ohio: Butterfly Gardens** (<http://ohioline.osu.edu/w-fact/0012.html>). This website about butterfly gardening is also useful for our area, and it contains such information as a listing of nectar plants and what butterfly species they attract.
- **For kids: Butterfly Basics** by The Field Museum in Chicago (www.fieldmuseum.org/butterfly/basics.htm) and **The Children's Butterfly Site** (<http://bsi.montana.edu/web/kidsbutterfly/>) are a couple of the many resources on the web.

Noteworthy Books About Butterflies and Moths

- **“Butterflies of the East Coast. An Observer's Guide”** by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor (2005) – superb reference book with gorgeous photographs
- **“Butterflies Through Binoculars: The East”** by Jeffrey Glassberg (1999) – excellent field guide
- **“Caterpillars in the Field and Garden. A Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of North America”** by Thomas Allen, Jim Brock, and Jeffrey Glassberg (2005) – great for butterfly caterpillars
- **“Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History”** by David Wagner (2005) – more comprehensive than the above book for our region – vivid photographs of butterflies and moths
- **“Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America”** (the current title). This is the same book as **“Butterflies of North America (Kaufman Focus Guides)”** (both by Jim Brock and Kenn Kaufman in 2003) – an excellent field guide with an easy-to-use short index for butterfly groups at the back of the book
- **“The Butterflies of West Virginia and Their Caterpillars”** by Thomas Allen (1997) – great photos of caterpillars and adults, and lots of foodplant information
- **“The Butterfly Gardener's Guide, Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides”** by Claire Hagen Dole (editor; 2003) – lots of information about gardening for butterflies throughout the U.S.
- **For kids and adults: “The Life Cycles of Butterflies”** by Judy Burris and Wayne Richards (2006). This colorful book has photos of 23 common butterfly species from egg to adult. There are easy comparison guides to eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises at the end of the book.

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