HOST PLANTS For Select Georgia Butterflies and Moths

Trying to attract more butterflies to your garden? It’s easy when you include host plants! Adult butterflies lay their eggs on specific plants, called “host plants,” which serve as food sources for their larvae. Once consumed, these plants often re-sprout their leaves within the same growing season. Seemingly as payment for services rendered, butterflies (and other insects) pollinate the plants, as they take breaks from egg-laying to sip upon nectar. Witness this cycle in your own garden!

Native Woody Trees and Shrubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Plant</th>
<th>Host Plant Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam's Needle</td>
<td>Yucca sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alder</td>
<td>Alnus serrulata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>Fraxinus sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azalea</td>
<td>Rhododendron sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basswood</td>
<td>(Linden) Tilia sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beech</td>
<td>Fagus grandifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birch</td>
<td>Betula sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackberry</td>
<td>Rubus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blueberry</td>
<td>Vaccinium sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butternut</td>
<td>(White Walnut) Juglans cinerea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catalpa</td>
<td>Catalpa bignonioides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherry</td>
<td>Prunus serotina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chestnut</td>
<td>Castanea sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chickasaw Plum</td>
<td>Prunus angustifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>Populus deltoides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crabapple</td>
<td>Malus angustifolia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogwood</td>
<td>Cornus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elm</td>
<td>Ulmus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gooseberry</td>
<td>Ribes sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hackberry</td>
<td>Celtis sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>Crataegus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazel Nut</td>
<td>Filbert) (Corylus americana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>Carya sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>American</td>
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<td>Huckleberry</td>
<td>Gaylussacia sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadplant</td>
<td>Amorpha fruticosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locust, Black</td>
<td>Robinia pseudacacia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locust, Honey</td>
<td>Kalmia latifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>Acer sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mistletoe</td>
<td>Phoradendron sp.</td>
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<td>Mountain Laurel</td>
<td>Kalmia latifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td>Morus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muscletwood</td>
<td>Carpinus caroliniana</td>
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<td>New Jersey Tea</td>
<td>Ceanothus americanus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak</td>
<td>Quercus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pawpaw</td>
<td>Asimina sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pecan</td>
<td>Carya illinoiensis</td>
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<td>Persimmon</td>
<td>Diospyros virginiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine</td>
<td>Pinus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prickly-Ash</td>
<td>Zanthoxylum sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Bay</td>
<td>Persea sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redbud</td>
<td>Cercis canadensis</td>
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<td>Redcedar</td>
<td>Juniperus virginiana</td>
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<td>Sassafras</td>
<td>Sassafras albidum</td>
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<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td>Amelanchier sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spicebush</td>
<td>Lindera benzoin</td>
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<td>Spirea</td>
<td>Spiraea tomentosa</td>
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<td>St. Johnswort</td>
<td>Hypericum sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumac</td>
<td>Rhus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweetbay</td>
<td>Magnolia virginiana</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Yucca Moth, Cofaqui Skipper, Yucca Skipper
Luna Moth
Baltimore, Harvester, Tiger Swallowtail
Brown Elfin, Datana Major Moth (Azalea Caterpillar)
Polyphemus Moth, Question Mark, Tiger Swallowtail
Early Hairstreak, Harvester, Luna Moth
Cecropia Moth, Dreamy Dusky Wing, Luna Moth, Mourning Cloak, Polyphemus Moth, Tiger Swallowtail
Brown Elfin, Red-spotted Purple, Spring Azure, Striped Hairstreak
Banded Hairstreak
Catalpa Sphinx Moth
Cecropia Moth, Coral Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple, Spring Azure, Striped Hairstreak, Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy
Polyphemus Moth
Coral Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin, Red-spotted Purple, Striped Hairstreak, Viceroy
Cecropia Moth, Dreamy Dusky Wing, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy
Cecropia Moth, Cloudless Sulphur, Spring Azure, Viceroy
Cecropia Moth, Spring Azure
Comma (Hop Merchant), Mourning Cloak, Polyphemus Moth, Question Mark
Harvester, Green Comma, Red-spotted Purple
American Snout, Comma, Hackberry, Mourning Cloak, Question Mark, Tawny Emperor
Gray Hairstreak, Harvester, Hummingbird Clearwing, Northern Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple
Juvenal's Dusky Wing
Banded Hairstreak, Hickory Horned Devil (Royal Walnut Moth), Luna Moth, Polyphemus Moth
Henry's Elfin
Harvester
Dogface, Mottled Dusky Wing, Silver-spotted Skipper
Silver-spotted Skipper, Zarucco Duskywing
Painted Lady, Silver-spotted Skipper
Cecropia Moth, Luna Moth, Polyphemus Moth
Brown Elfin
Red-spotted Purple
Cecropia Moth, Spring Azure
Banded Hairstreak, Hickory Horned Devil (Royal Walnut Moth), Dreamy Dusky Wing, Edward's Hairstreak, Gorgone Checkerspot, Gray Hairstreak, Horace's Dusky Wing, Juvenal's Dusky Wing, Luna Moth, Northern Hairstreak, Polyphemus Moth, Red-banded Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple, Southern Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak, White-M Hairstreak
Zebra Swallowtail
Gray Hairstreak
Hickory Horned Devil (Royal Walnut Moth)
Hickory Horned Devil (Royal Walnut Moth), Luna Moth
Eastern Pine Elfin
Giant Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail
Palamedes Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail
Henry's Elfin
Eastern Pine Elfin, Olive Hairstreak (Juniper Hairstreak)
Cecropia Moth, Palamedes Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail
Striped Hairstreak, Coral Hairstreak
Spicebush Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail
Spring Azure
Gray Hairstreak
Hickory Horned Devil (Royal Walnut Moth), Red-banded Hairstreak, Spring Azure
Cecropia Moth, Palamedes Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail
Native Woody Trees and Shrubs (continued)

Sweetgum Liquidambar styraciflua  Hickory Horned Devil (Royal Walnut Moth), Luna Moth
Sweetleaf (Horse Sugar) Symlocos tinctoria  King’s Hairstreak
Tuliptree Liriodendron tulipifera  Red-spotted Purple, Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Spicebush Swallowtail
Viburnum Viburnum sp.  Baltimore, Harvester, Hummingbird Clearwing, Spring Azure
Wafersash (Hop-tree) Ptelea trifoliata  Giant Swallowtail
Walnut Juglans nigra  Banded Hairstreak, Hickory Horned Devil (Royal Walnut Moth)
Waxmyrtle Myrica cerifera  Red-banded Hairstreak
Willow Salix sp.  Comma (Hop Merchant), Dreamy Dusky Wing, Green Comma, Luna Moth, Milbert’s Tortoise Shell, Polyphemus Moth, Red-spotted Purple, Spring Azure, Striped Hairstreak, Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak
Whitecedar Chamaecyparis thyoides  Hessel’s Hairstreak
Witchhazel Hamamelis sp.  Dreamy Dusky Wing, Harvester

Native Vines

Dutchman’s Pipevine Aristolochia sp.  Pipevine Swallowtail
Hog Peanut Apios americana  Juvenal’s Dusky Wing, Long-tailed Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper, Southern Cloudy Wing
Honeysuckle, Trumpet (or Coral) Lonicera sempervirens  Giant Leopard Moth, Hummingbird Clearwing
Moonseed Menispermum canadense  Variegated Fritillary
Passion Flower Passiflora incarnata  Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Zebra
Smilax (Catbrier) Smilax sp.  Olive Hairstreak (Juniper Hairstreak)
Wisteria, American Wisteria frutescens  Baltimore, Clouded Skipper, Horace’s Dusky Wing, Long-tailed Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper

Native Herbaceous Perennials, Annuals, and Biennials

Angelica Angelica venenosa  Black Swallowtail
Aster Aster sp.  Gorgone Checkerspot, American Painted Lady, Long-tailed Skipper, Painted Lady, Pearl Crescent, Silvery Checkerspot
Beggar’s Tick Desmodium sp.  Eastern Tailed Blue, Hoary Edge, Long-tailed Skipper, Long-tailed Skipper, Northern Cloudy Wing, Silver-spotted Skipper
Black Snakeroot Cimicifuga racemosa  Spring Azure
Black-eyed Susan Rudbeckia sp.  Silvery Checkerspot
Bluestar Amsonia tabernaemontana  Coral Hairstreak
Broomsedge Andropogon sp.  Cobweb Skipper
Butterfly Pea Clitoria mariana  Long-tailed Skipper
Cane Arundinaria sp.  Pearly Eye, Creole Pearly Eye, Carolina Roadside Skipper
Canna Canna flaccida  Brazilian Skipper
Chickweed Stellaria sp.  Dainty Sulphur
Clover Trifolium sp., Melilotus sp.  Alfalfa Butterfly (Orange Sulphur), Blues, Clouded Sulphur, Common Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak, Sleepy Orange
Coneflowers Echinacea sp.  Silvery Checkerspot
Crownbeard Verbesina sp.  Spring Azure, Pearl Crescent
Cut-leaf Coneflower Rudbeckia laciniata  Silvery Checkerspot
Dotted Horsemint Monarda punctata  Common Sooty Wing
False Foxgloves (Gerardia) Agalinis sp.  Buckeye
False-loosestrife Ludwigia sp.  Buckeye
Fleabanes Engeran sp.  Checkered White, Lynx Flower Moth
Ginger Asarum canadense  Pipevine Swallowtail
Goatweed Creton sp.  Goatweed Butterfly, Red-banded Hairstreak
Golden Alexander Zizia aurea  Black Swallowtail
Grasses Poaceae  Clouded Skipper, Common Wood Nymph, Grass Nymph, Little Wood-Satyr
Hibiscus Hibiscus sp.  Checkered Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady
Indian Hemp Apocynum cannabinum  Monarch
Ironweeds Vemonia sp.  American Painted Lady
Lupine Lupinus sp.  Alfalfa Butterfly (Orange Sulphur), Clouded Sulphur, Frosted Elfin, Pine Elfin, various blues
Mayapple Podophyllum peltatum  Variegated Fritillary
Milkweeds Asclepias sp.  Coral Hairstreak, Monarch, Queen, Sleepy Orange, Spring Azure
Mountain Mint Pycnanthemum sp.  Gray Hairstreak
Pansy, Field Viola Rafinesquii  Variegated Fritillary
Partridge Pea Cassia fasciculata  Ceraunus Blue, Cloudless Sulphur, Little Sulphur (Little Yellow)
Pencil Flower Stylophanthes hamata  Barred Yellow
Peppergrass Lepidium sp.  Checkered White
Native Herbaceous Perennials, Annuals, and Biennials (continued)

Petunias, wild (Ruellia) Ruellia sp.  Buckeye
Plantain Plantago sp.  Baltimore, Buckeye, Giant Leopard Moth, Wooly Bear (Isabella Tiger Moth)
Plume grass Erianthus sp.  Clou ded Skipper
Purpletop Tridens flavus  Common Wood Nymph
Pussytoes Antennaria sp.  American Painted Lady
Rabbit-tobacco (Cudweed) Gnaphalium sp.  American Painted Lady, Painted Lady
Rattlesnake Master Eryngium yuccifolium  Black Swallowtail
Sedges Carex sp.  Common Wood Nymph, Georgia Satyr, Little White, various skippers
Smooth beardtongue Penstemon digitalis  Buckeye
Sneezeweed Helianthemus sp.  Dainty Sulphur
Sneezeweed Senecio sp.  Painted Lady
Sorrel (Dock) Rumex sp.  Little Copper (American Copper) and other coppers
Spanish Needles Bidens sp.  Dainty Sulphur
Stinging Nettle Urtica sp.  Comma (Hop Merchant), Milbert's Tortoise Shell, Painted Lady, Question Mark, Red Admiral
Stonecrop Sedum sp.  Buckeye, Variegated Fritillary
Strawberry Fragaria virginiana  Variegated Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary
Sunflowers Helianthus sp.  Gorgone Checkerspot, Painted Lady, Silvery Checkerspot
Thistle Cirsium sp.  Painted Lady
Toadflax Linaria canadensis  Buckeye
Toothwarts Cardamine sp., Dentaria sp.  Falcate Orange Tip
Turtleheads Chelone sp.  Baltimore, Buckeye
Verbenas Verbena sp.  Buckeye
Vetch Vicia sp.  Alfalfa Butterfly (Orange Sulphur), Common Sulphur, Dogface, Eastern Tailed Blue, Gray Hairstreak
Virginia Snakeroot Cimicifuga americana  Pipevine Swallowtail
Wild Comfrey Cynoglossum virginianum  Gray Hairstreak
Wild-Indigo Baptisia sp.  Frosted Elfin, Alfalfa Butterfly (Orange Sulphur), Dogface, Eastern Tailed Blue, Hoary Edge, Mottled Dusky Wing, Wild Indigo Duskywing, Zarucco Dusky Wing

Common Garden Ornamentals, Agricultural Imports, and Weeds (non-natives)

Alfalfa Medicago sativa  Alfalfa Butterfly (Orange Sulphur), Clouded Sulphur, Common Sulphur, Eastern Tailed Blue
Beans  Gray Hairstreak, Long-tailed Skipper
Burdock Arctium sp.  American Painted Lady
Cabbage  Checkered White
Carrots  Black Swallowtail
Celery  Black Swallowtail
Citrus Trees  Giant Swallowtail
Crown Vetch Coronilla varia  Wild Indigo Duskywing
Daisy Chrysanthemum sp.  American Painted Lady, Painted Lady
Dandelion Taraxacum officinale  Giant Leopard Moth, Wooly Bear (Isabella Tiger Moth)
Dill Apiaceae family (parsley)  Black Swallowtail
Everlasting Anaphalis sp.  American Painted Lady, Painted Lady
False Nettle Boehmeria cylindrica  Comma (Hop Merchant), Milbert's Tortoise Shell, Question Mark, Red Admiral
Fennel  Black Swallowtail
Flaxes Linum sp.  Variegated Fritillary
Grass, Bermuda Cynodon dactylon  Fiery Skipper, Sachem, Gemmed Satyr, Whirlabout, Southern Skippering
Grass, Carpet Aruncus sp.  Carolina Satyr
Grass, Centipede  Carolina Satyr
Grass, Crab Digitaria sp.  Fiery Skipper, Sachem
Hollyhock Althea rosea  Checkered Skipper, Painted Lady, Gray Hairstreak
Hops Humulus lupulus  Comma (Hop Merchant), Red Admiral
Parsley  Black Swallowtail
Peach Prunus persica  Coral Hairstreak
Pear Pyrus sp.  Viceroy
Rue Ruta graveolens  Black Swallowtail
Senna Cassia sp.  Clou dfless Sulphur, Hackberry, Sleepy Orange, Little Sulphur (Little Yellow)
Sida Sida rhombifolia  Checkered Skipper
Snapdragon Antirrhinum sp.  Buckeye
Velvet Leaf Abutilon theophrasti  Checkered Skipper
REFERENCES:


Payne, Jerry and Rose. *Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. Backyard Butterflies.* Forsyth, GA.


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TIPS FOR ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR WILDLIFE HABITAT

Locate the garden in a sunny area. Butterflies and most butterfly-attracting plants require bright sunshine.

Plant nectar-producing flowers. Butterflies visit flowers in search of nectar, a sugary fluid, to eat. Many native butterflies seem to prefer purple, yellow, orange, and re-colored blossoms. Clusters of short, tubular flowers or flat-topped blossoms provide the ideal shapes for butterflies to easily land and feed.

Select single flowers rather than double flowers. The nectar of single flowers is more accessible and easier for butterflies to extract than the nectar of double flowers which have more petals per flower.

Use large splashes of color in your landscape design. Butterflies are first attracted to flowers by their color. Groups of flowers are easier for butterflies to locate than isolated plants.

Plan for continuous bloom throughout the growing season. Butterflies are active from early spring until late fall. Plant a selection of flowers that will provide nectar throughout the entire growing season (e.g. spring: blueberries, clover, wild cherry; summer: milkweeds, coneflowers, thistle; fall: goldenrod, joe-pye weeds).

Include host plants in the garden design. Host plants provide food for caterpillars and lure female butterflies into the garden to lay eggs.

Include damp areas or shallow puddles in the garden. Some butterflies drink and extract salts from moist soil. Occasionally large numbers of male butterflies congregate around a moist area to drink, forming a "puddle club."

Place flat stones in the garden. Butterflies often perch on stones, bare soil or vegetation, spread their wings and bask in the sun. Basking raises their body temperature so they are able to fly and remain active.

Do not use pesticides in or near a butterfly garden. Most traditional garden pesticides are toxic to butterflies. Use predatory insects, insecticidal soap or hand remove the pests if problems occur.