

The Butterfly Society of Virginia
Presents:
Attracting Butterflies to Your
Backyard and the Host Plants for
Their Caterpillars



Nectar plants are used to attract the adult butterflies. Basically anything with a flower is a nectar source, however some nectar plants are much better than others.

While there are good arguments for the use of only native plants, most gardens have a mix of both native and non-native.

Nectar Plants

Queen Anne's Lace

Purple Cone Flower



Button Bush



Penta



Lantana



(Chapel Hill)

Lantana (Ms. Huff)



Sedum



Blue Salvia



Aster



Fennel



Buddleia



Butterfly Bush

Joe Pye Weed



Boneset



Brazilian Verbena



Monarda or Bee Balm



Zinnia



Mountain Mint



Check out all the pollinators on this fennel



Host Plants

These are the plants that the caterpillars need as food. Many species feed on just one or two types of plants.



The Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*



Milkweed



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata



Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
Common Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca

Monarch eggs



Early instar monarch caterpillars



Late instar monarch caterpillars



Eastern Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes* caterpillars feed on several related plants





Fennel, Parsley, Queen Anne's Lace, Rue, dill, carrot...



All of these are host plants for the Eastern Black Swallowtail

and Golden Alexander *Zizia aurea*



A native food plant for the Black Swallowtail

Many people focus on the
Monarch or the Black Swallowtail
when planting for caterpillars...

...But if you plant it, they will come!

Passion Vine *Passiflora incarnata*/*Passiflora caerulea*

There is are tropical and native species

The caterpillar host plant for the
Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*
and the Variegated Fritillary
Euptoieta claudia!





Gulf Fritillary:
egg, larva, adult

the Variegated Fritillary.



Spicebush *Lindera benzoin* and
Sassafras *Sassafras albidum* the host plant for
the Spicebush Swallowtail *Papilio troilus*



Spicebush Swallowtail *Papilio troilus*



Female



Male

To find caterpillars look for folded leaftips
or,
for later instar caterpillars, rolled leaves





The late instar caterpillars are well known and easily recognizable.



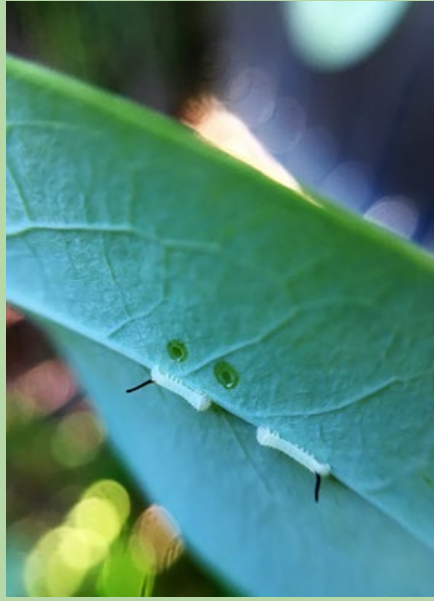
Native Honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens* the host plant for the
Snowberry Clearwing moth *Hemaris diffinis*



“Major Wheeler”



“John Clayton”



The related Hummingbird Clearwing *Hemaris thysbe* prefers viburnums



Arrowwood
Viburnum



Late instar caterpillar



Cassia *Cassia bicapsularis* or sicklepod the host plant for
Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebus sennae* and Sleepy Orange
Eurema nicippe



Two for one!!!

And you will only need to plant one...

Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebus sennae*



and Sleepy Orange *Eurema nicippe*



Pawpaw *Asimina triloba*



The only food plant for the Zebra Swallowtail!

Pentas *Pentas Lanceolata*



Host plant for the Tersa Sphinx *Xylophanes tersa*

Wild Black Cherry
Prunus serotina



and Tulip Poplar
Liriodendron tulipifera



Are the host plants for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio glaucus*



melanistic female

Wild Black Cherry *Prunus serotina* is also a host plant to the Red-spotted Purple *Limenitis arthemis*



There are 2 early instar caterpillars in this photo

Dutchman's Pipe (Pipevine)

Aristolochia macrophylla and Virginia Snakeroot

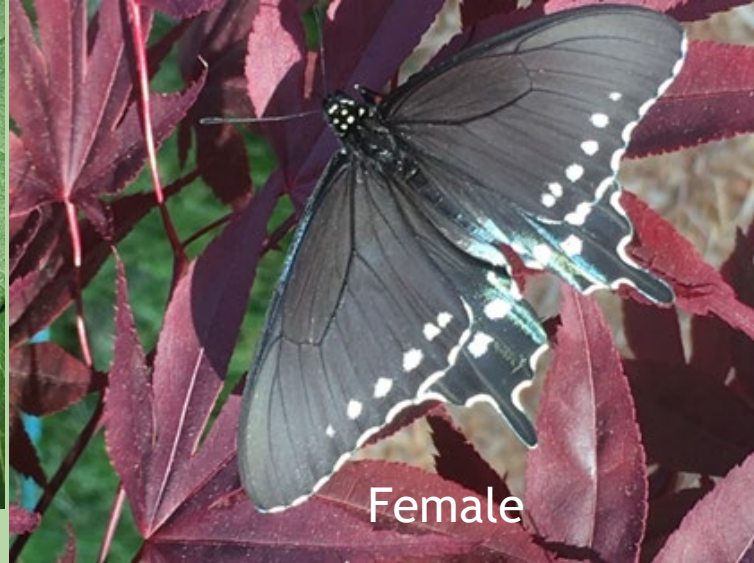
Aristolochia serpentaria



Host plants for the Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor*



Male



Female

The End!

Be sure to visit the Butterfly Society of Virginia Webpage for more information.

<https://www.butterflysocietyofva.org/>

Also check out the Butterfly Society of Virginia on Facebook