

Planting for Butterflies

You can attract butterflies by growing plants they need. Most butterflies can feed on nectar from a wide variety of plants, but cannot reproduce without their native host plants. You can help by planting the host species in this guide and protecting habitats where they grow naturally.

Though most butterfly species use several host plants, this guide only lists one plant per butterfly, with both common and scientific names. Because common names vary and some species look similar, reference the scientific name when buying plants. Be sure to buy plants that have not been treated with pesticides. Pesticides can be toxic to butterflies and other insects.

While native plants are crucial for butterflies, they can be hard to find. Sources of Georgia native plants, additional planting tips, and many more butterflies can be found at www.nabageorgia.weebly.com.



ANSWER: Pearl Crescent and Gray Hairstreak

Georgia is home to over **160** butterfly species.

Almost any backyard can attract approximately **30** butterfly species.



DID YOU KNOW?

Some butterflies completely ignore flowers but will happily eat spoiled fruit!



GEORGIA BUTTERFLIES

PROTECTING THE MAJESTIC MONARCHS

Monarchs east of the Rockies have declined significantly since 1995.

During spring and summer, monarchs breed throughout the U.S. and southern Canada. In the fall, adults of an eastern population migrate to Mexico for the winter. The following spring, these butterflies fly northward, many crossing Georgia. To survive these long journeys, monarchs need nectar from flowering plants all along their

route and milkweed on which to lay eggs in spring. The eggs hatch into caterpillars that can only eat milkweed leaves.

- SUGGESTED GEORGIA NATIVE MILKWEEDS**
- Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
 - Clasping milkweed (*Asclepias amplexicaulis*)
 - Redring milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*)
 - Whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*)

Milkweed and other native butterfly host plants have been reduced in recent years due to a number of factors, including human development, agriculture, mowing, climate change, and the use of chemical weed killers (herbicides).

Some scientists are concerned the spread of tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) in the U.S. has negative impacts on monarch migration. To avoid potential risks of growing tropical milkweed, cut it to the ground in late fall and also include Georgia native milkweeds and nectar plants in your garden.



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WHO'S ON THE COVER?
USE THIS GUIDE TO IDENTIFY THE BUTTERFLIES!



Asclepias tuberosa


Monarch larvae can only eat milkweed leaves!



GOSSAMER-WINGS

ADULT	LARVA	HOST PLANT
		
Red-Banded Hairstreak		Winged Sumac (<i>Rhus copallinum</i>)
		
Gray Hairstreak		Rose Mallow (<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>)
		
Spring Azure		Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)
		
Summer Azure		New Jersey Tea (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>)
		
Eastern Tailed Blue		Bush Clover (<i>Lespedeza virginica</i>)
		
American Snout		Common Hackberry (<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>)
		
Variegated Fritillary		Birdfoot Violet (<i>Viola pedata</i>)
		
Gulf Fritillary		Passionflower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)

BRUSHFOOTS

ADULT	LARVA	HOST PLANT
		
Viceroy		Black Willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>)
		
Pearl Crescent		New England Aster (<i>Symphytotrichum novae-angliae</i>)
		
Red Admiral		Common Hop Vine (<i>Humulus lupulus</i>)
		
Common Buckeye		Wild Petunia (<i>Ruellia carolinensis</i>)
		
Red-Spotted Purple		Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)
		
Mourning Cloak		Black Willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>)
		
Eastern Comma		False Nettle (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>)
		
Question Mark		False Nettle (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>)

ADULT	LARVA	HOST PLANT
		
American Lady		Pussy Toes (<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>)
		
Painted Lady		Thistle (<i>Cirsium altissimum</i>)
		
Carolina Satyr		Carpet Grass (<i>Axonopus compressus</i>)
		
Horace's Duskywing		Water Oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>)
		
Cloudless Sulphur		Wild Senna (<i>Senna marilandica</i>)
		
Little Yellow		Partridge Pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>)
		
Sleepy Orange		Wild Senna (<i>Senna marilandica</i>)
		
Cabbage White (native to Europe)		Virginia Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>)

WHITES, SULPHURS, SKIPPERS

ADULT	LARVA	HOST PLANT
		
Long-Tailed Skipper		American Wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>)
		
Silver-Spotted Skipper		False Indigo Bush (<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>)
		
Fiery Skipper		Teal Lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis hypnoides</i>)
		
Spicebush Swallowtail		Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)
		
Zebra Swallowtail		Pawpaw Tree (<i>Asimina triloba</i>)
		
Black Swallowtail		Golden Alexander (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)
		
Pipevine Swallowtail		Pipevine (<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>)
		
Giant Swallowtail		Hercules Club (<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>)

SWALLOWTAILS