



Nectar and Host Plants of DuPage County Butterflies

Butterfly	Larval Plants	Nectar Plants
Buckeye	Plantain, snapdragon, toadflax	Short throated flowers, e.g. asters dogbane, etc.
Baltimore Checkerspot	Turtlehead, swamp betony, valerian	Asters, Black-eyed Susan, mountain mint, viburnum, wild rose
Common Wood Nymph	Native grasses	Bee balm, milkweed, purple coneflower, thistles
Eastern Tailed Blue	Flower buds & flowers of: clover, legumes, wild white indigo	Asters, clover, milkweed, etc.
Fritillaries	Violets	Asters, bee balm, Joe-Pye weed, milkweeds, purple coneflower, thistles,
Hackberry Butterfly	Leaves of Hackberry tree	Rarely visit flowers, feed on carrion, dung, rotting fruit, tree sap,
Monarch	Milkweeds	Asters, blazing star, goldenrod, ironweed, Joe-Pye weed, milkweed, etc.
Mourning Cloak	Leaves of birch, elm, hackberry, willow	Rarely nectar, feed on rotting fruit, tree sap
Painted Lady	Aster, mallow, Pussytoes, thistle	Asters, blazing star, ironweed, milkweed, purple coneflower, thistles
Pearl Crescent	Native asters	Asters, dogbane, milkweed, oregano, etc.
Question Mark & Comma	Elm, hackberries, nettles, willows	Rarely nectar, feed on carrion, rotting fruit, tree sap
Red Admiral	All members in the nettle family, PA. Pellitory	Asters, flowers of fruit trees, milkweeds, rotting fruit, tree sap
Red-spotted Purple	Leaves of apple, poplar, wild black cherry, willow, etc.	Rarely visit flowers, carrion, dung, rotting fruit, tree sap
Skippers	Black locust, legumes, mustards, native grasses & sedges	Asters, dogbane, legumes, milkweed, mustards, etc.
Spring/Summer Azure	Dogwood, wild cherry, New Jersey tea, spirea, viburnum	Asters, common milkweed, dogwood, New Jersey tea, etc.
Viceroy	Leaves of apple, plum, poplar, wild cherry, willow	Asters, carrion, dung, goldenrod, ripe fruit, sap flows, etc.
Swallowtails		
Black Swallowtail	Plants in the carrot family: dill, fennel, parsley, rue, etc. Golden Alexander	Asters, fruit tree blossoms, Joe Pye weed, phlox, etc.
Giant Swallowtail	Prickly ash, Wafer ash	Composites, milkweed, phlox, etc.
Pipevine Swallowtail	Virginia snakeroot, & cultivated pipevine	Bee balm, milkweed, phlox, thistle, etc.
Spicebush Swallowtail	Leaves of sassafras, spicebush, sweet bay, tulip tree	Milkweed, phlox, verbena, etc.
Tiger Swallowtail	Leaves of apple, magnolia, tulip poplar, wild black cherry	Asters, ironweed, Joe-Pye weed, milkweed, purple coneflower, etc.

Butterfly Books and Websites

Recommended By
Wild Ones Greater DuPage Chapter

Books

Attracting Native Pollinators: The Xerces Society Guide, Protecting North America's Bees & Butterflies
by the Xerces Society. Storey Publishing, LLC; 384 pages

Butterflies of Illinois: A Field Guide - by Michael Jeffords, Susan Post, James R. Wiker. Illinois Natural History Survey; (2019); 264 pages

Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History - by David L. Wagner. Princeton University Press; (2005); 512 pages

Field Guide to Butterflies of Illinois - by John K. Bouseman. †Illinois Natural History Survey; (2001) 264 pages

Field Guide to the Skipper Butterflies of Illinois by John K. Bouseman, James G. Sternburg, James R. Wiker. †Illinois Natural History Survey; 200 pages

Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America (Kaufman Focus Guides) – by Jim P. Brock, Kenn Kaufman. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2006); 384 pages

Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars of North America – by Amy Bartlett Wright. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; (1993); 128 pages

Stokes Butterfly Book: The Complete Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification, and Behavior by Donald & Lillian Stokes & Ernest Williams. Little, Brown and Company; (1991) 96 pages

Websites

Backyards for butterflies Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

<https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/wildlife/backyard-wildlife/Backyards%20for%20Butterflies%20pub089.pdf>

Butterflies of Fermilab <https://www.fnal.gov/ecology/wildlife2/butterflies/FermilabButterflyTable.html>

Chicago Field Museum - Illinois Common Butterflies of the Chicago Region

<https://fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org/guides/guide/533>

DuPage Monarch Project (DMP) <https://dupagemonarchs.com/> - a lead volunteer group dedicated to protecting monarchs, pollinators & pollinator conservation in our communities. DuPage Wild Ones is a partner in DMP.

Illinois Butterflies <https://www.butterflyidentification.org/butterflies-by-state-listing.php?reach=Illinois>

iNaturalist Illinois Butterflies <https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/3629>

Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) <https://monarchjointventure.org/> a nonprofit organization building a national partnership with Federal & State agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses & academic programs, working cooperatively to conserve monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Wild Ones has been a partner of MJV since 2021.

Xerces Society <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>