

## VIII. Especially for Butterfly Lovers: Great Lakes Plants for Butterfly Caterpillars

### Butterfly

American Painted Lady

Painted Lady

Monarch

Baltimore

Black Swallowtail

Giant Swallowtail

Tiger Swallowtail

Pipevine Swallowtail

Checkered White

Veined White

Olympia Marblewing

Mourning Cloak

Tawny Emperor

Hackberry Butterfly

Cabbage White

Common Sulfur

Orange Sulfur

Little Yellow

Red Admiral

Question Mark

Viceroy

Silvery Crescentspot

Gorgone Crescentspot

Brown Elfin

Frosted Elfin

Hoary Edge

Henry's Elfin

Olive Hairstreak

Hickory Hairstreak

Eastern Tailed Blue

Spring Azure

racemosa,

Atlantis Fritillary

Common Checkered Skipper

Tawny Edge Skipper

Falcate Orangetop

Zebra Swallowtail

### Host Plants

everlastings: *Antennaria dioica*#, *Anaphalis* spp. (species),

*Gnaphalium* spp.

*Cirsium* species (thistles), other *Compositae*\* (daisy family)

*Asclepiaceae*\* (milkweeds)

*Chelone* species (turtlehead), sometimes white ash@

*Umbelliferae*\*: Queen Anne's lace, dill, fennel, parsley; *Ruta graveolens*

*Ruta graveolens* (rue)

*Salix* spp. (willow)@, *Populus* spp. (cottonwood)@, *Betula* spp. (birch)@,

*Fraxinus* spp. (ash)@, *Prunus* spp. (cherry)@, *Liriodendron tulipifera*

(tulip-tree)@

*Aristolochia macrophylla* (Dutchman's pipe vine)

*Cleome hasslerana* (spiderflower)

*Arabis* spp. (rock cress), *Dentaria* (toothwort)

*Dentaria* (toothwort)

willow@, *Ulmus* spp. (elm)@, *Celtis* spp. (hackberry)@, cottonwood@

*Celtis* spp. (hackberry)@

*Celtis* spp. (hackberry)@

broccoli, etc.; nasturtium

clover, legumes (such as perennial sweet pea, lupine, locust tree)

clover, legumes (such as perennial sweet pea, lupine, locust tree)

clover, legumes (such as perennial sweet pea, lupine, locust tree)

hops, *Urticaceae*\* (incl. stinging nettle)

hackberry@, hops, *Urticaceae*\* (nettles, including stinging nettle)

mainly willow@; sometimes poplar@, *Malus* spp. (apple)@, plum@

sunflower, *Rudbeckia laciniata* (gray coneflower), *Asteraceae*\* (asters)

sunflower, other *Compositae*\*

azalea, blueberry, bearberry

legumes - pea family plants - such as lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), false indigo

legumes such as *Baptisia australis* (false indigo)

*Cercis canadensis* (redbud)@, blueberry

*Juniperus virginiana* (red cedar)

*Carya* spp. (hickory)@

legumes (incl. sweet pea)

*Cornus* spp. (dogwood)@, *Ceanothus* spp.@, *Viburnum* spp.

(arrowwood, Koreanspice, American cranberrybush), *Cimicifuga*

*Spiraea* spp.

*Viola canadensis* (violet)

*Malvaceae*\* (rose mallow)

grasses including *Panicum virgatum* (switch grass)

*Arabis* spp., *Sisymbrium* spp. (hedge mustard)

paw paw tree@

\* Capitalized names ending in "aea" or "ea" refer to a family of plants. Some common plants within the family are listed for you. Consult the reference book such as *Hortus* for a listing of the plant groups within each family.

# Use the botanical name of the plant when ordering; common names sometimes refer to a number of plants but butterfly caterpillars are dependent on a specific plant.

@ Don't forget - trees also support butterfly caterpillars. Don't use insecticides on trees unless absolutely necessary.

## **Fun with butterflies -- raising caterpillars**

1. Recognize egg-laying behavior
  - Flitting from flowerless plant to flowerless plant, hovering over/on a leaf.
  - Beat the predators and parasites to the egg.
  - Note wing markings ("Audubon... Guide to North American Butterflies")
2. Collect the stem bearing the egg.
  - Treat as cut flower: Remove excess leaves. Strip/split woody stem end.
  - Use bud vase or cover vase opening to prevent larvae falling into water.
3. Keep vase on "droppings" tray.
4. Check each morning for eclosure ("hatching"). 10-14 days common.
  - Light & heat essential. Air conditioning & darkness slow development.
5. Provide additional food:
  - Tiny mouths: May be many days before feeding is even noticeable
  - Insert new stem with old into same bud vase. Wait for larvae to transfer.
6. Safeguard larvae from cats, birds, predator insects.
7. Larvae unlikely to leave leaf while growing. Perhaps enclose vase and stem to prevent wandering after 2-3 weeks or near that species' pupation.
8. Some overwinter as pupae. Slow cool down then refrigerator or unheated garage in jar with air holes or mesh cover and mouse protection.
  - Check regularly in spring as earliest nectar sources bloom.
9. Use Internet search engine and key words (such as: Entomological Society caterpillar larvae care)to learn more via sites such as <http://www.amentsoc.org/insects/caresheets/caterpillars.html>