

What Should I Plant?

Host Plants – I want to feed caterpillars and make my garden more valuable to nature!

Plant	Approximate Size	Flower?	Rarity in area/ for sale	Caterpillars that use it
Pawpaw	40 ft. max. – understory tree	Small/ interesting, followed by largest native edible fruit!	Uncommon	Zebra Swallowtail – this is their only host plant!
Tulip Poplar	120 ft. max. – large tree	Yes, Orange, white, and green	Common	Tiger Swallowtail, Luna Moth
Sweet Gum	100 ft. max. – large tree	Yes, not showy	Common	Luna Moth
Sassafras	60 ft. max. – middle-sized tree	Yes, not showy	Common	Spicebush Swallowtail
Hackberry (American)	75 ft. max. – middle-sized tree	Yes, white followed by berries	Rare	Question Mark, American Snout, Mourning Cloak
Spicebush	12 ft. max. -- shrub	Yes, yellow clusters followed by red berries	Uncommon	Spicebush Swallowtail
Parsley	4 ft max	Yes, not showy	Common	Black Swallowtail
Dill	4 ft max	Yes, not showy	Common	Black Swallowtail
Rue	4 ft max	Yes, not showy	Common	Black Swallowtail
Queen Anne's Lace	4 ft max	Yes, bright white clusters	Common	Black Swallowtail
Virginia Snakeroot	2 ft max	Yes, small very interesting shape	Very Rare	Pipevine Swallowtail
Common Milkweed	8 ft max	Yes, fragrant purple/ pink puff	Uncommon	Monarch
Swamp Milkweed	4 ft max	Yes, white or dark pink	Uncommon	Monarch
Butterfly Milkweed	2 ft max	Yes, yellow to orange	Uncommon	Monarch
Wild Indigo	3 ft max	Yes, purple	Uncommon	Frosted Elfin
Wild Lupine	2 ft max	Yes, large purple stalks	Uncommon	Frosted Elfin
Pipevine (Aristolochia macrophylla is good; other exotic varieties are poisonous to caterpillars!)	30 ft max on trellis or other (it is a vine)	Yes, very interesting 'pipe' shaped	Very Rare	Pipevine Swallowtail