

Butterfly & Moth Host Plants for Central Texas: Shopping Guide



Texas Native



Nectar Source*

Staff Favorite



Looking to open your own butterfly restaurant? Look no further! This is your go-to shopping list for plants we sell that can host native caterpillars. Many native plants aren't in cultivation (yet), but chances are you already have some food growing in your backyard. Remember, adults have different diets than caterpillars. Many vital nectar sources don't host caterpillars, so they aren't listed here. Inventory varies seasonally. Text our nursery team at (512)-560-6788 for questions regarding plant inventory.
-Linden, HCWG horticulturalist

Butterfly Education Resources

- Xerces Society for Insect Conservation
- Monarch Sanctuary Project
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- BAMONA
- Native Plant Society of Texas
- National Butterfly Center
- North American Butterfly Association
- iNaturalist
- Texas universities

PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Flame Acanthus <i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i>	Texan Crescent, Common Buckeye, Common Patch, Crimson Patch		
Snakeherb <i>Dyschoriste linearis</i>	Common Buckeye		
Gregg's Tube-tongue <i>Justicia pilosella</i>	Vesta Crescent, Texan Crescent, Elada Checkerspot		
Prairie Flameleaf Sumac <i>Rhus lanceolata</i>	Dusky Blue Groundstreak (leaf litter), Red-banded Hairstreak (leaf litter)		
Dill <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Black Swallowtail		

*For adult butterflies & moths—All species on this list offer nectar and/or benefits to pollinators (bees!) & other wildlife.






































HILL COUNTRY
**WATER
GARDENS**
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PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Black Swallowtail		
Parsley <i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Black Swallowtail		
Rattlesnake Master <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Black Swallowtail		
Butterflyweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Gray Hairstreak, Monarch, Queen, Soldier		
Antelope-horns <i>Asclepias asperula</i>	Monarch (preferred), Queen, Straight-lined Cydosa		
Swamp Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Monarch, Queen		
Zizotes Milkweed <i>Asclepias oenotheroides</i>	Monarch (preferred), Queen		
Green Milkweed <i>Asclepias viridis</i>	Monarch (preferred), Queen		
Yaupon Holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Henry's Elfin		
Possumhaw Holly <i>Ilex decidua</i>	Henry's Elfin, Pawpaw Sphinx		
White-veined Pipevine <i>Aristolochia fimbriata</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail		
Twistleaf Yucca <i>Yucca rupicola</i>	Yucca Giant Skipper, Strecker's Giant Skipper		
Buckley's Yucca <i>Yucca constricta</i>	Yucca Giant Skipper, Strecker's Giant Skipper		
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Silvery Checkerspot, Bordered Patch		
Sunflowers <i>Helianthus species</i>	Silvery Checkerspot, Bordered Patch, Painted Lady, American Lady, Gorgone Checkerspot, Rustic Sphinx, Southern Emerald		
Fall Aster <i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i>	American Lady, Silvery Checkerspot		































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PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Coneflowers <i>Echinacea species</i>	Pearl Crescent		
Gayflowers <i>Liatris species</i>	Bleeding Flower Moth		
Rosinweed <i>Silphium albiflorum</i>	Bordered Patch		
Texas Thistle <i>Cirsium texanum</i>	Painted Lady		
Shrubby Boneset <i>Ageratina havanensis</i>	Rawson's Metalmark, Bordered Patch		
Blanket Flower <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Painted Schinia, Bina Flower Moth, Bordered Patch, Common Buckeye		
Great Coneflower <i>Rudbeckia maxima</i>	Southern Emerald, Silvery Checkerspot		
Zexmenia <i>Wedelia acapulcensis</i>	Bordered Patch		
Fineleaf Four-nerved Daisy <i>Tetrameuris linearifolia</i>	Bina Flower Moth		
Gregg's Blue Mistflower <i>Conoclinium greggii</i>	Rawson's Metalmark		
Common Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Painted Lady		
Silver Wormwood <i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	Painted Lady, American Lady		
Frostweed <i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Bordered Patch, Silvery Checkerspot		
Southern Catalpa <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Tersa Sphinx		
Desert Willow <i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Rustic Sphinx		
Esperanza <i>Tecoma stans</i>	Plebeian Sphinx, Southern Flannel Moth, Rustic Sphinx		
Trumpet Creeper <i>Campsis radicans</i>	Plebeian Sphinx, Waved Sphinx, Grapevine Epimenis		





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PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Crossvine <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Plebeian Sphinx		
Blue Curls <i>Phacelia congesta</i>	Painted Lady		
Cabbages <i>Brassica species</i>	Cabbage White, Checkered White		
Sweet Alyssum <i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Cabbage White, Checkered White		
Prickly Pears <i>Opuntia species</i>	Julia's Dicymolomia Moth		
Water Canna <i>Canna glauca</i>	Brazilian Skipper		
Nasturium <i>Tropaeolum species</i>	Great Southern White		
Coral Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Snowberry Clearwing		
Coralberry <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Io Moth, Harris Three Spot		
American Black Elderberry <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Imperial Moth, White-lined Sphinx		
Sweet Potato Vine <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	Pink-spotted Hawkmoth, Black-bordered Lemon Moth		
Roughleaf Dogwood <i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Io Moth, Imperial Moth, Small Heterocampa		
Eastern Red Cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Juniper Hairstreak, Imperial Moth, Lemmer's Pinion		
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Imperial Moth		
Sedges <i>Carex species</i>	Henry's Marsh Moth		
Texas Persimmon <i>Diospyros texana</i>	Hypocala Moth, Gray Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin		
American Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Hypocala Moth, Luna Moth, Tersi Sphinx, Imperial Moth, Harris Three Spot, Large Tolyte Moth		




























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PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Blueberries <i>Vaccinium virgatum</i>	Henry's Elfin, Azalea Sphinx, Pawpaw Sphinx, Large Lace-border, Forage Looper Moth, Harris Three Spot		
Lindheimer's Senna <i>Senna lindheimeriana</i>	Cloudless Sulphur, White-angled Sulphur, Orange-barred Sulphur, Mexican Yellow, Tailed Orange, Sleepy Orange		
Twoleaf Senna <i>Senna roemeriana</i>	Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur, Tailed Orange, Orange Sulphur		
Common Tree Senna <i>Senna corymbosa</i>	Cloudless Sulphur, White-angled Sulphur		
Candlestick Tree <i>Senna alata</i>	Black Witch, Cloudless Sulphur, White-angled Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Large Orange Sulphur		
Popcorn Senna <i>Senna didymobotrya</i>	Cloudless Sulphur, White-angled Sulphur, Sleepy Orange		
Texas Kidneywood <i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	Southern Dogface, Silver-spotted Skipper		
Gregg Dalea <i>Dalea greggii</i>	Southern Dogface, Ceraunus Blue		
Black Dalea <i>Dalea frutescens</i>	Southern Dogface, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue		
False Indigo Bush <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Southern Dogface, Marine Blue, Gray Hairstreak, Silver-spotted Skipper, Forage Looper Moth		
Honey Mesquite <i>Neltuma glandulosa</i>	Black Witch, Reakirt's Blue, Heiligbrodt's Mesquite Moth, Ceraunus Blue, Io Moth, Indomitable Graphic, Heiligbrodt's Mesquite Moth		
Mimosas <i>Mimosa species</i>	Black Witch, Long-tailed Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper, Little Yellow, Mimosa Yellow, White-striped Longtail		
Texas Mountain Laurel <i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	Long-tailed Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper, Henry's Elfin, Genista Broom Moth		
Texas Bluebonnet <i>Lupinus texensis</i>	Eastern Tailed-blue, Gray Hairstreak, Northern Cloudywing, Henry's Elfin		
Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Henry's Elfin, Io Moth		
American Wisteria <i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	Long-tailed Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper, Marine Blue		
Anacacho Orchid Tree <i>Bauhinia lunarioides</i>	Cassius Blue, Long-tailed Skipper		

PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Oak species (generalist) <i>Quercus species</i>	Gray Hairstreak, Short-tailed Skipper, Southern Flannel Moth, Horace's Duskywing, Io Moth, The Bride		
Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Banded Hairstreak, Juvenal's Duskywing, Little Nymph Underwing, Elm Sphinx		
Chinkapin Oak <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Imperial Moth, Georgian Prominent, Eastern Buck Moth		
Red Oaks <i>Quercus species</i>	Ilia Underwing, Red-bordered Emerald, Eastern Buck Moth, Georgian Prominent, Polyphemus Moth, Imperial Moth, Wave Sphinx		
Texas Live Oak <i>Quercus fusiformis</i>	Grote's Buck Moth, Eastern Buck Moth		
Pecan <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Luna Moth, Walnut Caterpillar Moth, False Underwing, Walnut Sphinx, Io Moth, Agrippina Underwing		
Rushes <i>Juncus species</i>	Henry's Marsh Moth		
Mealy Blue Sage <i>Salvia farinacea</i>	Inornate Pyrausta Moth		
American Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Rustic Sphinx		
Barbados Cherry <i>Malpighia glabra</i>	White Patched Skipper, Cassius Blue, Funereal Duskywing		
Turk's Cap <i>Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii</i>	Turks Cap White Skipper, Io Moth		
Winecup <i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Gray Hairstreak		
Crimson-eyed Rose-mallow <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Io Moth		
Powdery Alligator-flag <i>Thalia dealbata</i>	Brazilian Skipper		
Mulberries <i>Morus species</i>	Io Moth		
Wax Myrtle <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Banded Hairstreak, Red-banded Hairstreak, Imperial Moth, Cecropia Moth, Polyphemus Moth, Io Moth, Forage Looper Moth		






















HILL COUNTRY
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PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Scarlet Gaura <i>Oenothera suffrutescens</i>	Clouded Crimson, White-lined Sphinx		
Lindheimer's Gaura <i>Oenothera lindheimeri</i>	Clouded Crimson, White-lined Sphinx		
Maypop Passionflower <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary		
Blue Plumbago <i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	Cassius Blue		
Big Bluestem <i>Andropogon gerardi</i>	Common Wood Nymph		
Sideoats Grama <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Green Skipper, Orange Skipperling		
Buffalograss <i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	Green Skipper		
Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Common Wood Nymph, Celia's Roadside Skipper		
Purslanes <i>Portulaca species</i>	White-lined Sphinx		
Carolina Buckthorn <i>Frangula caroliniana</i>	Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady		
Mexican Plum <i>Prunus mexicana</i>	Cecropia Moth, Polyphemus Moth, Large Tolyte Moth, Banded Hairstreak, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Two-tailed Swallowtail, Viceroy, Io Moth, Red-spotted Purple, White-lined Sphinx, Twin-spotted Sphinx		
Blackberries <i>Rubus species</i>	Io Moth, White-lined Sphinx		
Pentas <i>Pentas species</i>	Tersa Sphinx		
Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	Tersa Sphinx		
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Tersa Sphinx		
Common Rue <i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Western Giant Swallowtail, Eastern Giant Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail		



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PLANT	LEPIDOPTERA SPECIES		
Citrus <i>Citrus species</i>	Western Giant Swallowtail, Eastern Giant Swallowtail		
Texas Sage <i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Theona Checkerspot		
Water Hyssop <i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	White Peacock		
Texas Paintbrush <i>Castilleja indivisa</i>	Common Buckeye		
Woolly Stemodia <i>Stemodia lanata</i>	Twintip Buckeye (& potential hybrids with Common Buckeye)		
Jimsonweed <i>Datura wrightii</i>	Carolina Sphinx, Pink-spotted Hawkmoth, Five-spotted Hawkmoth		
Tomato <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	Carolina Sphinx, Five-spotted Hawkmoth		
Pepper <i>Capsicum annuum</i>	Carolina Sphinx, Five-spotted Hawkmoth		
Eggplant <i>Solanum melongena</i>	Carolina Sphinx, Five-spotted Hawkmoth		
Potato <i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	Carolina Sphinx, Five-spotted Hawkmoth		
Chile Pequin <i>Capsicum annuum</i> var. <i>glabriusculum</i>	Carolina Sphinx, Five-spotted Hawkmoth		
Broadleaf Cattail <i>Typha latifolia</i>	Henry's Marsh Moth, Julia's Dicymolomia Moth		
Cedar Elm <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Elm Sphinx, Question Mark, Mourning Cloak, Southern Flannel Moth, Tawny Emperor, Hackberry Emperor, Large Lace Emperor, Twin-spotted Sphinx		
Frogfruit <i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Phaon Crescent, Common Buckeye, White Peacock		
Texas Lantana <i>Lantana urticoides</i>	Lantana Stick Moth		
Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper Sphinx, Mournful Sphinx, Eight-spotted Forester, Lettered Sphinx, Grapeleaf Skeletonizer, Nessus Sphinx		



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