

Name of Butterfly	Nectar Plant(s)	Host Plant(s) for Caterpillars
Aaron's Skipper <i>Poanes aaroni</i>	Smooth cordgrass	Pickerelweed, salt marsh, fleabane, coreopsis
American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	Coneflowers, tall verbena	Artemesia, Pearly everlasting, Plaintain-leaved pussytoes, daisy family
American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>	Asters, dogbane, dogwood flowers, goldenrod, sweet pepperbush	Several species of hackberry
Appalachian Brown <i>Satyroides appalachia</i>	Sap and other non-floral resources	Sedge, giant sedge
Banded Hairstreak <i>Satyrium calamus</i>	Dogbane, milkweed, chinguapin, small-flowered dogwood, New Jersey tea, meadowsweet, staghorn sumac, white sweet clover, yarrow	Oak, walnut, hickory
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	Milkweed, thistle, phlox, butterfly bush, butterfly weed	Carrot, dill, parsley, Queen Anne's lace, fennel, rue
Brazilian Skipper <i>Calpodis ethlius</i>	Cultivated plants in the canna family	Lantana
Broad-winged Skipper <i>Poanes viator</i>	Hairy sedge, reed, wild rice, marsh millet	Swamp milkweed, purple loosestrife, blue vervain, dogbane, swamp milkweed, pickerelweed, thistle, salt marsh fleabane
Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cosmos, tall verbena	Cabbage, broccoli, nasturtiums, cleome
Carolina Satyr <i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>	Sap and rotting fruit	Carpet grass, centipede grass, St. Augustine grass, Kentucky bluegrass
Checkered White <i>Pontia protodice</i>	Hedge mustards, alfalfa	Mustards, cabbage, caper family
Clouded Skipper <i>Lerema accius</i>	Grasses – St. Augustine, wooly beard grass	Shepherd's needle, vervain, selfheal, buttonbush, lantana
Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	Dandelion, milkweeds, tall verbena	White clover, grasses
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	Long tubed flowers – cordia, bouganivilla, cardinal flowers, lantana, morning glory	Cassia, clover, legumes
Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia Hubner</i>	Milkweeds, tall verbena	Plantain, snapdragons, toadflax, ruellia, gerardia
Common Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus communis</i>	White-flowered composites – shepherd's needle, fleabane, asters, red clover, knapweed, beggar's tick	Globe, velvetleaf, poppy, and alkali mallows, hollyhock
Common Sootywing <i>Phoisora catullus</i>	Dogbane, marjoram, oxalis, white clover, common milkweed, peppermint, cucumber, melon	Lamb's quarters, amaranthus, cockscomb (celosia)
Common Wood-Nymph <i>Cerynis pegala</i>	Rotting fruit, flower nectar	Purple top, other grasses
Crossline Skipper <i>Polites origenes</i>	Purpletop, little bluestem	Purple vetch, red clover, selfheal, dogbane, New Jersey tea, New York ironweed

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Delaware Skipper <i>Anatrytone logan</i>	Various grasses – big bluestem, switchgrass, wooly beard grass	Swamp and common milkweeds, mountain mint, sweet pepperbush, buttonbush, thistles, pickerelweed, fleabane
Dion Skipper <i>Euphyes dion</i>	Sedges – woolgrass, hairy, and shoreline sedge	Pickerelweed, sneezeweed, buttonbush, Alsike clover
Dun Skipper <i>Euphyes vestris</i>	Sedges – chufa flatsedge, sun sedge	Common milkweed, purple vetch, selfheal, peppermint, dogbane, New Jersey tea, viper’s bugloss
Eastern Comma <i>Polygonia comma</i>	Rotting fruit, sap, butterfly bush, hebe	Nettle, false nettle, elm, hops
Eastern Pine Elfin <i>Callophrys niphon Hubner</i>	Blueberry flowers, cinquefoil, chickweed, common milkweed, white sweet clover	Scrub pine, jack pine, soft white pine
Eastern Tailed Blue <i>Everes comyntas</i>	Short or open tubed ground flowers – white sweet clover, shepherd’s needle, wild strawberry, winter cress, cinquefoil , asters	Wild pea family, yellow sweet clover, alfalfa, vetch, bush clover
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	Butterfly bush, thistle, coneflowers, tithonia, petunias	Lilac, sweet bay magnolia, tulip poplar, wild cherry
Falcate Orangetip <i>Anthocharis midea</i>	Mustard flowers, violets	Mustards, rock cress, winter cress
Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	Bermuda grass, crabgrass, St. Augustine grass	Sweet pepperbush, swamp milkweed, asters, sneezeweed, knapweed, ironweed, thistles
Gemmed Satyr <i>Cyllopsis gemma</i>	Not reported	Bermuda grass
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	Dogbane, milkweed, mint, winter cress, goldenrod, tick trefoil, sweet white clover	Pea, clovers, cotton, and mallow families
Great Purple Hairstreak <i>Atlides halesus</i>	Goldenrod, Hercules club, shepherd’s needle, sweet pepperbush, wild plum	Mistletoe
Great Spangled Fritillary <i>Speyeria cybele</i>	Aster, pepperbush, rotting fruit	Thistle
Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	Butterfly bush, coneflowers, lantana, zinnias	Passion vine
Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	Sap, rotting fruit, dung, carrion	Sugarberry, hackberry
Harvester <i>Feniseca tarquinius</i>	Aphid honeydew (do not sip flower nectar)	Wooly aphids, scale insects, treehoppers
Hayhurst’s Scalopwing <i>Staphylus hayhurstii</i>	Marigold, knotweed, spearmint, wild marjoram, cucumber, dogbane, white sweet clover, white clover	Lambsquarters (goosefoot family), chaff (pigweed family)
Henry’s Elfin <i>Callophrys henrici</i>	Redbud flowers, willow flowers, wild plum, hawthorn, Forstiera	Redbud, dahoon, American holly, yaupon, huckleberries, blueberries, Mexican buckeye, viburnum species

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Hoary Edge <i>Achalarus lyciades</i>	Common milkweed, dogbane, buttonbush, Japanese honeysuckle, New Jersey tea	Beggar's tick, false indigo, bush clover, members of pea family
Holly Azure <i>Celastrina idella</i>	Garden & wildflowers	American holly, yaupon holly, Virginia sweetspire
Horace's Duskywing <i>Erynnis horatius</i>	Dogbane, buttonbush, sneezeweed, goldenrod, peppermint, boneset, winter cress	Willow oak, Northern red oak, scrub oak, water oak, live oak, post oak
Juniper Hairstreak <i>Callophrys gryneus</i>	Winter cress, dogbane, common milkweed, butterfly weed, shepherd's needle, white sweet clover	California juniper, Utah juniper, red cedar
Juvenal's Duskywing <i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	Wintercress, dandelion, wild plum, wisteria, blueberry, Carolina vetch, redbud, lilac	Tree and shrub oaks
Least Skipper <i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>	Grasses – marsh millet, rice cutgrass, cultivated rice	Wood sorrel, swamp verbena, pickernelweed, chicory, white clover
Little Glassywing <i>Pompeius verna</i>	Purpletop	Dogbane, selfheal, selfheal, peppermint, joe pye weed, common and swamp milkweed
Little Wood-Satyr <i>Megisto cymela</i>	Sap, aphid honeydew; rarely sips flower nectar	Orchard grass, centipede grass
Little Yellow <i>Pyrisitia lisa</i>	Asters, goldenrods	Partridge pea, wild sensitive plant
Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	Bougainvillea, lantana, shepherd's needle	Beans, crucifers, canna lilies, hog peanuts, beggar's tick, blue peas, wisteria
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Milkweeds, butterfly bush	Milkweeds
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Rotting fruit, butterfly bush, pussy willow	Willow, elm, birch, aspen, cottonwood, hackberry
Northern Broken-Dash <i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>	Panic grasses – deer tongue grass,	Dogbane, red clover, New Jersey tea, sweet pepperbush
Northern Cloudywing <i>Thorybes pylades</i>	Blue, purple, pink, or white flowers- dogbane, selfheal, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, thistle, milkweed, Deptford pink, hoary vervain	Plants in pea family, beggar's tick, bush clover, clover, lotus
Northern Pearly-eye <i>Enodia anthedon</i>	Dung, fungi, carrion, willow sap, poplars, birch	White grass, bearded shorthusk, plume grass, broad-leaf uniola, bottlebrush
Ocola Skipper <i>Panoquina ocola</i>	Lantana, shepherd's needle, swamp milkweed, buttonbush, pickernelweed	Rice, sugarcane, trompetilla grass
Orange Sulphur <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	Clover, aster, phlox, wildflowers	White clover, vetch, alfalfa, legumes
Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Coneflowers, tall verbena, zinnias, cosmos, dahlia	Hollyhocks, Thistle

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Palamedes Swallowtail <i>Papilio palamedes</i>	Sweet pepperbush, thistles, blue flag, azalea	Red bay, swamp bay, laurels
Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	Coneflowers, tall verbena, zinnias	Asters
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	Honeysuckle, azalea, thistle, garden phlox, butterfly bush, tithonia, swamp milkweed	Pipevine
Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	Rotting fruit, sap, milkweed, butterfly weed	Elm, Nettle, false nettle, hops, hackberry
Rare Skipper <i>Problema bulenta</i>	Not reported	Pickerelweed, swamp milkweed
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Rotting fruit, composites, alfalfa, butterfly bush, coneflowers	False nettle, pellitory, false nettle, hops
Red-banded Hairstreak <i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	Yarrow, wild cherry, tickseed sunflower, sumac, sweet pepperbush, New Jersey tea, common milkweed, dogbane	Fallen leaves – dwarf and staghorn sumacs, wax myrtle, oaks
Red-spotted Purple <i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	Rotting fruit, privet, butterfly bush, lantana, milkweeds	Willow, aspen, wild cherry, plum, hornbeam, poplar, black oak, cottonwood
Sachem (field skipper) <i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	Tall blue verbena, goldenrod, rabbitbrush, coyotebrush, alfalfa, thistles, dogbane	Bermuda grass, dallis grass, other grasses
Saltmarsh Skipper <i>Panoquina panoquin</i>	Seashore saltgrass	Privet, sweet pepperbush, red clover, gumweed, lippia, salt marsh fleabane, blue mistflower, thistle, verbena
Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	Honeysuckle, zinnia, butterfly bush	Wisteria, beans, black locust, legumes
Sleepy Duskywing <i>Erynnis brizo</i>	Heaths, wild azalea, blueberry, blackberry, dandelion	Scrub oak, shrubby oaks
Sleepy Orange <i>Eurema nicippe</i>	Many flowers - shepherd's needle	Cassia
Southern Broken-Dash <i>Wallengrenia otho</i>	Paspalum and St. Augustine grass	Pickerelweed, selfheal, sweet pepperbush
Southern Cloudywing <i>Thorybes bathyllus</i>	Blue, purple, pink, or white flowers-dogbane, selfheal, crown vetch, Japanese honeysuckle, thistle, milkweed	Plants in pea family, beggar's tick, bush clover, clover, milkvetch, fuzzybean, wild bean
Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Papilio troilus</i>	Butterfly bush, coneflowers, lantana, sunflowers	Spicebush, sassafras
Spring Azure <i>Celastrina ladon</i>	Dogbane, privet, New Jersey tea, blackberry, common milkweed	Woody shrubs – viburnum, New Jersey tea, meadowsweet, Collinsia, dogwood, wild cherry
Summer Azure <i>Celastrina neglecta</i>	Flower nectar	Racemose dogwoods, New Jersey tea

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Swarthy Skipper <i>Nastra lherminier</i>	Low-growing flowers – selfheal, red clover, tick trefoil, purple vetch, New Jersey tea, peppermint	Little bluestem
Tawny Emperor <i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	Tree sap, rotting fruit, dung, carrion (almost never visits flowers)	Trees in elm family
Tawny-edged Skipper <i>Polites themistocies</i>	Panic grasses, slender crabgrass, bluegrass	Alfalfa, red clover, dogbane, houstonia shrub, purple coneflower, thistle, chicory
Variegated Fritillary <i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	Butterfly bush, coneflowers	Passionflower (maypop), violets, pansies, plantain
Viceroy <i>Limenitis archippus</i>	Rotting fruit, butterfly bush, coneflowers, milkweeds	Willow, aspen, poplar, apple, plum, cherry, cottonwood
White M Hairstreak <i>Parrhasium m album</i>	Viburnum, sumac, sourwood, wild plum, poinsettia, sweet pepperbush, common milkweed, lantana, dogwood, goldenrod	Live oak and other oak species
Wild Indigo Duskywing <i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	Blackberry, white sweet clover, dogbane, sunflower, crimson clover	Wild indigo, wild blue indigo, lupine, false lupine, crown vetch
Zabulon Skipper <i>Poanes zabulon</i>	Grasses – lovegrass, purpletop, bluegrass, wheatgrass, orchardgrass, wildrye, bentgrass	Japanese honeysuckle, red clover, everlasting pea, selfheal, blackberry purple vetch, common milkweed, joe pye weed, thistle
Zebra Swallowtail <i>Eurytides Marcellus</i>	Cosmos, milkweed, Sweet William, Zinnias	Pawpaw

This list of butterflies and their plants was prepared by Cheryl Roettger, Master Gardener, VCE James City County/Williamsburg Unit (www.iccwmg.org), for the Sustainable Gardening Project at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org.

Reference sources:

- Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists of Virginia (www.historicrivers.org)
- The Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (www.cvwo.org)
- The Butterfly Society of Virginia (www.butterflysofva.org)
- Jeffrey K. Webb, Area Agent at The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
- *The Life Cycles of Butterflies* by Judy Burris and Wayne Richards
- Butterflies and Moths of North America (www.butterfliesandmoths.org).



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