



Backyard Wildlife



WILDLIFE HABITAT NOTES: Butterfly Caterpillar Foods

Caterpillars feed on the leaves and soft stem parts of plants. Most butterflies are very specific as to the kinds of plants they eat; a few butterflies are known to eat a single plant species (denoted by an asterisk*) or a single group of plants such as violets or milkweeds. Some of the most important food plants are trees and shrubs.

HOST PLANT

BUTTERFLY SPECIES

Overstory Trees

- Birch (*Betula* spp.)
- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

- Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
- Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
- Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

- Hickory (*Carya* spp.)
- Locust, Black (*Robinia pseudoacacea*)
- Oak (*Quercus* spp.)
- Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
- Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Willow, Black (*Salix nigra*)

- Mourning Cloak
- Spring Azure, Red-spotted Purple, Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy
- Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy
- Comma, Question Mark, Mourning Cloak
- Comma, Question Mark, Hackberry*, Mourning Cloak, Snout, Tawny Emperor*
- Banded Hairstreak
- Silver-spotted Skipper
- Banded Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple
- Spicebush Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail
- Spicebush Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail
- Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy

Understory Trees

- Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)
- Hercule's Club (*Aralia spinosa*)
- Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Wild Apple (*Malus coronaria*)
- Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*)

- Spring Azure
- Banded Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple
- Giant Swallowtail
- Red-spotted Purple, Tiger Swallowtail
- Zebra Swallowtail*
- Viceroy
- Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy

Shrubs

- New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Steeplebush (*Spirea tomentosa*)
- Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*, *V. dentatum*, *V. prunifolium*, *V. rufidulum*)
- Willow (*Salix humilis*, *S. interior*, *S. sericea*)

- Spring Azure
- Spicebush Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail
- Spring Azure

- Spring Azure
- Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy

Vines

- Dutchmans Pipevine (*Aristolochia macrophylla*)

- Pipevine Swallowtail