
PRESERVATION TEXAS

Planet-Sustainable Solutions for Texas Landowners

Native Host Plants For Central Texas Butterflies

Host Plants: The butterfly lifecycle begins with the female butterfly laying eggs on a host plant. When the eggs hatch, caterpillars will emerge. The caterpillars will feed on leaves from the host plant. In most cases, the host plant survives, but in some cases, such as parsley, the entire plant may be consumed by hungry caterpillars!

Giant Swallowtail	Hop Tree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>)
	Toothache Tree (<i>Zanthoxylum hirsutum</i>)
Eastern Black Swallowtail	Dutchmen's Breeches (<i>Thamnosma texana</i>)
	Prairie Parsley (<i>Polytaenia nuttallii</i>)
	Prairie Bishop's Weed (<i>Bifora americana</i>)
Spicebush Swallowtail	Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)
Pipevine Swallowtail	Swan Flower (<i>Aristolochia erecta</i>)
	Texas Snakeroot (<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>)
	Texas Pipevine (<i>Aristolochia coryi</i>)
	Woolly Pipevine (<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>)
Two-Tailed Tiger Swallowtail	Hop Tree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>)
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Escarpment Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>Exemia</i>)
	Texas Ash (<i>Fraxinus texensis</i>)
Red-Spotted Purple	Escarpment Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>Exemia</i>)
	Cottonwood (<i>Populus deltoides</i>)
Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Longwing and Julia	Passionflower (<i>Passiflora lutea</i>)
	Passionflower (<i>Passiflora tenuiloba</i>)
	Passionflower (<i>Passiflora affinis</i>)
	Maypop (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)
	Tagua Passionflower (<i>Passiflora foetida</i>)
Variegated Fritillary	Flax (<i>Linum</i> spp.)
	Passionflower on rare occasions (<i>Passiflora</i> spp.)
Goatweed Butterfly	Doveweed (<i>Croton monanthogynus</i>)
	Doveweed (<i>Croton texensis</i>)
	Bush Croton (<i>Croton fruticulosus</i>)

Question Mark Butterfly	Hackberry Trees (<i>Celtis</i> sp.) Elm Trees (<i>Ulmus</i> sp.)
Dogface Sulphur	Kidneywood (<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>) Black Dalea (<i>Dalea frutescens</i>) Purple Prairie Clover (<i>Dalea compacta</i>)
Sleepy Orange Sulphur	Lindheimer's Senna (<i>Cassia lindheimerii</i>) Two-Leaved Senna (<i>Cassia roemeriana</i>)
Dainty Sulphur	Greenthread (<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i>) Navajo Tea (<i>Thelesperma simplicifolium</i>)
Cloudless Sulphur	Lindheimer's Senna (<i>Cassia lindheimeri</i>) Two-Leaved Senna (<i>Cassia roemeriana</i>) Partridge Pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>)
Checkered White	Virginia Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>) Other plants in the Mustard family
Falcate Orange Tip	Virginia Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>) Other plants in the Mustard family
Monarch	Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) Milkweed Vine (<i>Matelea</i> spp.) less frequently
Queen	Green Milkweed (<i>Asclepias viridis</i>) Wand Milkweed (<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>) Texas Milkweed (<i>Asclepias texana</i>) Other <i>Asclepias</i> spp. less frequently Milkweed Vine (<i>Cynanchum</i> spp.) Wavy Leaf Milkweed Vine (<i>Sarcostemma crispum</i>) Purple Milkweed Vine (<i>Matelea bifora</i>)
Red Admiral	Stinging Nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.) Pellitory or Cucumber Plant (<i>Parietaria pennsylvanica</i>)
Painted Lady	Texas Thistle (<i>Cirsium texana</i>) Plants in the Mallow family
America Painted Lady	Rabbit Tobacco (<i>Evax</i> spp.) Others in the Aster family as well
Buckeye	Gerardia (<i>Agalinus</i> spp.) Plantain (<i>Plantago</i> spp.) Paintbrush (<i>Castilleja</i> spp.) Wild Petunia (<i>Ruellia</i> spp.)
Mourning Cloak	Willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.) Cottonwood (<i>Populus deltoides</i>) Many others used
Bordered Patch	Cowpen Daisy (<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>) Golden-Eye (<i>Viguiera dentata</i>) Zexmenia (<i>Zexmenia hispida</i>) Many other composites used
Janais Patch	Flame Acanthus (<i>Aniscanthus quadrifidus</i>)

Texas Crescentspot	Plants in the Acanthus family
Phaon Crescentspot	Frogfruit (Phyla spp.)
Pearly Crescentspot	Aster (Aster spp.)
Vesta Crescentspot	Hairy Tube Tongue (Siphonoglossa pilosella)
Common Snout	Hackberry Tree (Celtis spp.)
Silver-Spotted Skipper	False Indigo (Amorpha fruticosa)
	Texas Indigo Tree (Amorpha roemeriana)
Funereal Duskywing	Scarlet Pea (Indigofera miniata)
	Rattlebush (Sesbania drummondii)
	Many other legumes
Mottled Duskywing	Redroot, New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus herbaceous)
Checkered Skipper	Plants in the Mallow family
Clouded Skipper	Big Bluestem (Andropogon gerardii)
	Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium)
	Many Other grass skippers using most any native grass available
Common Wood Nymph	Big Bluestem (Andropogon gerardii)
	Purpletop Tridens (Tridens flavus)
Red Satyr	An assortment of native grasses
Gray Hairstreak	Many different host plants
Ceraunus Blue	Scarlet Pea (Indigofera miniata)
	Bundleflower (Desmanthus spp.)
	Prairie Clovers (Dalea spp.)
Reakirt's Blue	Bundleflower (Desmanthus spp.)
Great Blue Hairstreak	Mistletoe (Phoradendron tomentosum)