




















Twenty-five Kentucky Native Plants that attract Butterflies and Birds

If I could only plant 25 plants these are the ones I would choose. They are attractive and hardy, supply a source of nectar and pollen throughout the growing season, attract birds, butterflies, and other pollinators, and are host plants for butterflies and moths.

Spring	
	<p>Spicebush* (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>) Type: shrub Flowers: March-April Height: 5-9' Light preference: sun, shade Moisture: avg Note: Host for Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly</p>
	<p>Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>) Type: tree Flowers: April Height: 12-25' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Early source of nectar</p>
	<p>Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: May-June Height: 1-2' Light preference: shade, sun Moisture: avg Note: Attracts hummingbirds</p>
	<p>Blueberries (<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>) Type: shrub Flowers: May Height: 3-4' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Birds feed on berries; colorful fall foliage</p>
	<p>Trumpet Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>) Type: vine Flowers: April-Oct Light preference: sun, light shade Moisture: avg Note: Red tubular flowers are a magnet for hummingbirds. The vine attracts birds year around and is not invasive</p>
	<p>Arrow-wood Viburnum* (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>) Type: shrub Flowers: April-May Height: 4-15' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Birds feed on blue berries; host for Tawny Emperor butterflies</p>

	<p>Dutchman's Pipevine* (<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>) Type: vine Flowers: May-June Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Host for Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies; <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> similar species</p>
	<p>Blue False Indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: May-June Height: 3-5' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg Note: Large showy deep-blue flowers; attractive blue-green foliage</p>
	<p>Virginia Sweetspire* (<i>Itea virginica</i>) Type: shrub Flowers: May-June Height: 3-6' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Host for Azure butterflies; excellent early nectar source</p>
	<p>Golden Alexander (<i>Zizia aurea</i>) as well as non-native Parsley, Dill, Fennel, and Carrots Type: Golden Alexander is a native perennial Height: 10-12" Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: dry-moist Note: Host plants for Black Swallowtail butterflies</p>
<p>SUMMER</p>	
	<p>Button Bush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>) Type: shrub Flowers: June-July Height: 5-15' Light preference: sun Moisture: moist-avg Note: White round flower-heads attract butterflies and other pollinators</p>
	<p>Scarlet Bee Balm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: June Height: 3-4' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg Note: Bright red flowers; attracts hummingbirds and butterflies</p>
	<p>Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: June-August Height: 3-4' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Host for Silvery Checkerspot butterflies; good source of nectar</p>

	<p>Common Milkweed* (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: June Height: 3-5' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg-moist Note: Host of Monarch butterflies; attracts many butterflies and insects</p>
	<p>Purple Milkweed* (<i>Asclepias purpurea</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: June-July Height: 2-3' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg-moist Note: Host for Monarch butterflies</p>
	<p>Swamp Milkweed* (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: July-August Height: 4-5' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg-moist Note: Host for Monarch butterflies</p>
	<p>Butterfly Milkweed* (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: June-July Height: 2-3' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg Note: Host for Monarch butterflies</p>
	<p>Tropical Milkweed (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>) Type: Annual (non-native) Flowers: July-frost Height: 3-5' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg Note: Host for Monarch butterflies; attracts migrating Monarchs</p>
	<p>Sweet Coneflower (<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>) Type: Perennial Flowers: July-Sept Height: 3-4' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Also called Sweet Susan; similar to Orange Coneflower – <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i></p>
	<p>Blazing Stars (<i>Liatris species</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: June-Sept Height: 3-6' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg Note: Different species bloom at different times; provide vertical interest</p>

	<p>Royal Catchfly (<i>Silene regia</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: July-August Height: 3-4' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg Note: Showy red flowers on tall stems; attracts hummingbirds</p>
FALL	
	<p>Mist Flower (<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: Aug-Oct Height: 2-3' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg-moist Note: Good source of nectar between summer and fall blossoms</p>
	<p>Hearts-a-Burstin' (<i>Euonymus americanus</i>) Type: shrub Flowers: May-June Height: Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg-moist Note: Also known as Strawberry Bush; showy fruits in October</p>
	<p>New England Aster* (<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>) Type: perennial Flowers: Sept-Oct Height: 4-5' Light preference: sun Moisture: avg Note: Other aster species also good sources of nectar and hosts for Pearl Crescent butterflies</p>
	<p>Winterberry (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>) Type: shrub Flowers: berries/Oct Height: 10-18' Light preference: sun, part shade Moisture: avg Note: Early source of nectar, birds feed on attractive red berries; female plants have berries if male plant nearby</p>

The information in this chart is primarily from my experience and Shooting Star Nursery catalog.

Resources:

Sources for Plants

- Shooting Star Nursery – 160 Soards Rd. Georgetown, KY 40324 – 502-867-7979 – www.shootingstarnursery.com
- Local garden centers – good to use the Latin names when asking for plants; tell them you are looking for natives

Books

- *The Life Cycles of Butterflies* – by Judy Burris and Wayne Richards; especially helpful for those wanting to learn more about common Kentucky butterflies, host plants, and good nectar plants
- *Gardening for Birds* – by Thomas Barnes; includes good information on gardening for butterflies as well as birds
- *Bringing Nature Home* – Douglas Tallamy; emphasizes the value of landscaping with native plants

Websites

- Betty Hall Photography – www.bettyhallphotography.com
- Wild Ones – www.wildones.org/chapters/lexington; Lexington Chapter of a national organization that encourages landscaping with native plants
- North America Butterfly Association – www.naba.org