



Host Plants for Butterfly and Moth Caterpillars North American Deserts Ecoregion

The caterpillars of butterflies and moths feed on the leaves of native plants. Each species has its own caterpillar host plants. Without host plants, these important and beautiful insects cannot complete their lifecycle and their populations decline. Host plants with high butterfly and moth associations play a direct role in supporting bird populations.

The native caterpillar host plants listed below are often available at local native plant sales, and increasingly found at nurseries and local garden centers. Please verify the plant is suitable for your local growing conditions.

By adding some of these species to your garden you are helping make a difference for wildlife.

Plant Type	Scientific Name	Common Name	Also Provides Nectar and Pollen for Adult Butterflies, Moths, Bees or Other Pollinators
Trees	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	desert willow	X
	<i>Cylindropuntia bigelovii</i> syn. <i>Opuntia bigelovii</i>	teddybear cholla	
	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rocky Mountain juniper	
Shrubs	<i>Arctostaphylos patula</i>	greenleaf manzanita	X
	<i>Rhus trilobata</i> syn. <i>Rhus aromatica</i>	skunkbush sumac	X
Flowering Perennials	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	fringed sage	X
	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	big sage	X
	<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>	silvery lupine	X
	<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	tufted evening primrose	X
	<i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i>	desert penstemon	X
	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	Rocky Mountain penstemon	X
	<i>Phlox nana</i>	Santa Fe phlox	X
	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	scarlet globe-mallow	X

Visit www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder to find native plants that host the greatest numbers of butterflies and moths to raise their young in your zip code.

Regional Plant Suppliers

While not a comprehensive list, these growers have been researched and are suggested as a good starting point.

Retail Nurseries Serving This Ecoregion

High Country Gardens (mail order) <https://www.highcountrygardens.com/>

Plants of the Southwest in Santa Fe & Albuquerque, NM <https://plantsofthesouthwest.com/>

Santa Ana Garden Center in Pueblo of Santa Ana, NM <http://www.santaana.org/garden.htm>

Wholesale Nurseries Serving This Ecoregion

Santa Ana Native Plant & Tree Nursery in Pueblo of Santa Ana, NM <http://www.santaana.org/nursery.htm>

Wildlands Nursery in Benton City, WA <http://wildlandsnursery.com/nursery/>

*Geographic areas are based on Omernik's Level I Ecoregions, as presented by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Map: <http://www.cec.org/tools-and-resources/map-files/terrestrial-ecoregions-level-i>

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