



NATIVE PLANT FINDER



Host Plants for Butterfly and Moth Caterpillars

SOUTHERN SEMI-ARID HIGHLANDS ECOREGION

The caterpillars of butterflies and moths feed on the leaves of native 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.

| Plant Type | Plant Name |
|----------------------|--|
| Trees | Desert Willow (<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>)* |
| | Rocky Mountain Juniper (<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>) |
| | Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)* |
| | New Mexico Locust (<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>)* |
| Shrubs | Ocotillo (<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>) |
| | Wood's Rose (<i>Rosa woodsii</i>)* |
| Flowering Perennials | Common Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)* |
| | Butterfly Milkweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)* |

| Plant Type | Plant Name |
|--|---|
| Flowering Perennials | Wholeleaf Indian Paintbrush (<i>Castilleja integra</i>) |
| | Aspen Fleabane (<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>)* |
| | Silvery Lupine (<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>)* |
| | Tufted Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>)* |
| | Desert Penstemon (<i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i>)* |
| | Scarlet Globe-mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>)* |
| Mountain Goldenbanner (<i>Thermopsis montana</i>)* | |

* Also Provides Nectar and Pollen for Adult Butterflies, Moths, Bees or Other Pollinators

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)
www.highcountrygardens.com/

Plants of the Southwest in Santa Fe & Albuquerque, NM
www.plantsofthesouthwest.com/

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

WHOLESALE NURSERIES SERVING THIS ECOREGION

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



Visit the Native Plant Finder at www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder

for a full list of native host plants naturally found in your zip code, ranked by the number of butterfly and moth species they support.

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

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Photo: Great Purple Hairstreak (Atlides halesus – Cramer, 1777) Credit: Lynne Berard