



Host Plants for Butterfly and Moth Caterpillars Tropical Humid Forests 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>Celtis laevigata</i>	hackberry, sugarberry	
	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	buttonwood	
	<i>Ficus aurea</i>	strangler fig	
	<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>	false tamarind	
	<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>	Jamaican dogwood	
	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	live oak	
Shrubs	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	X
	<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>	seagrape	
	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	coralbean, Cherokee bean	X
	<i>Lantana involucrata</i>	button sage	
	<i>Pithecellobium keyense</i>	Florida Keys blackbead	
	<i>Senna ligustrina</i> <i>Vachellia farnesiana</i> syn. <i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	privet Senna sweet acacia	
Flowering Perennials	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	water hyssop, herb of grace	

	<i>Canna flaccida</i>	golden canna, Bandana-of-the-Everglades	
	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	sleeping plant, partridge pea	X
	<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's tickseed	X
	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	beach sunflower	X
	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	tropical red sage	
	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	seaside golden rod	X
Grass & Grass-like	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	Elliott's lovegrass	
	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	eastern gamagrass, fakahatchee grass	
Vines	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	corkystem passionflower	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

Plant Real Florida, <https://www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/3>

Wholesale Nurseries Serving This Ecoregion

Florida Association of Native Nurseries, <https://www.floridanativenurseries.org/professionals/>

*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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