



NATIVE PLANT FINDER



Host Plants for Butterfly and Moth Caterpillars

TROPICAL HUMID FORESTS 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	Hackberry, Sugarberry (<i>Celtis laevigata</i>)
	Buttonwood (<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>)
	Strangler Fig (<i>Ficus aurea</i>)
	False Tamarind (<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>)
	Jamaican Dogwood (<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>)
	Live Oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>)
Shrubs	Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>)*
	Seagrape (<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>)
	Coralbean, Cherokee Bean (<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>)*
	Buttonsage (<i>Lantana involucrata</i>)
	Florida Keys Blackbead (<i>Pithecellobium keyense</i>)
	Privet Senna (<i>Senna ligustrina</i>)
	Sweet Acacia (<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i> syn. <i>Acacia farnesiana</i>)

Plant Type	Plant Name
Flowering Perennials	Water Hyssop, Herb Of Grace (<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>)
	Golden Canna, Bandana-Of-The-Everglades (<i>Canna flaccida</i>)
	Sleeping Plant, Partridge Pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>)*
	Leavenworth's Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>)*
	Beach Sunflower (<i>Helianthus debilis</i>)*
	Tropical Red Sage (<i>Salvia coccinea</i>)
Grass & Grass-like	Seaside Golden Rod (<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>)*
	Elliott's Lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>)
Vines	Eastern Gamagrass, Fakahatchee Grass (<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>)
	Corkystem Passionflower (<i>Passiflora suberosa</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

Plant Real Florida
www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/3

WHOLESALE NURSERIES SERVING THIS ECOREGION

Florida Association of Native Nurseries
www.floridanativenurseries.org/professionals/



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*

Acknowledgements: The National Wildlife Federation wishes to thank Dr. Doug Tallamy of the University of Delaware, Dr. Jaret Daniels of University of Florida, Cammie Donaldson of the Florida Association of Native Nurseries, and The Florida Native Plant Society, for information presented in this guide. Special thanks to American Beauties Native Plants for underwriting the development of these regional guides

*Photo: Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia* – Linnaeus, 1767) Credit: Caroline Brown*