

Top 10 Natives

for butterflies & moths



1

OAK

Family: Fagaceae
Genus: Quercus

The mighty oak supports 534 species of butterflies/moths, and its acorns feed deer, turkeys, bear, squirrels, even wood ducks. There are 80 oak species in North America.



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WILLOW

Family: Salicaceae
Genus: Salix

With 97 willow species in North America, there are lots to choose from. They support some of the showiest butterflies, e.g., viceroys.



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CHERRY, PLUM

Family: Rosaceae
Genus: Prunus

Native plums and wild cherries, including black cherry, choke-cherry, and pin cherry, are excellent sources of food for wildlife.

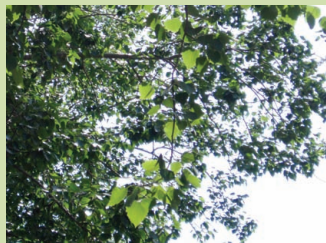


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BIRCH

Family: Betulaceae
Genus: Betula

Birches support hundreds of butterfly/moth species, plus they produce seeds and flower buds that feed a variety of birds, from songbirds to turkeys.



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POPLAR

Family: Salicaceae
Genus: Populus

Lepidoptera love these fast-growing trees. They harbor 7 giant silk moth, 7 sphinx moth, 77 noctuid (nocturnal moth) and 10 butterfly species.



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CRABAPPLE

Family: Rosaceae
Genus: Malus

There are only four native species of crabapples in the U.S. The fruits are favorites of birds, deer and other wildlife.

BLUEBERRY, CRANBERRY

Family: Ericaceae
Genus: Vaccinium

Underused in ornamental plantings, they host butterflies/moths and nourish birds and mammals.

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MAPLE

Family: Aceraceae
Genus: Acer

Since the demise of the American chestnut, maples have expanded their role in the forest. They support 285 Lepidoptera species.

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ELM

Family: Ulmaceae
Genus: Ulmus

Intense breeding programs have produced disease-resistant American elms. A few caterpillars eat nothing else and look like its leaves.

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PINE

Family: Pinaceae
Genus: Pinus

Despite their resins and terpenes, pine needles are a favorite food of 203 species of butterflies/moths in eastern forests.

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This hornworm is the larva of the hummingbird sphinx moth. The "horn" near its tail is harmless. The adult moth looks like a hummingbird and feeds on flowers with lots of nectar.

From Doug Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* (Timber Press, 2007)

