

Twenty-five Kentucky Native Plants that attract Butterflies, other Pollinators and Birds

Common name	Scientific name	Type	Light Pref.	Moisture	Flowers	Height	Note
SPRING							
Spicebush*	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	shrub	sun, shade	avg	March-April	5-9'	Host for Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	tree	sun, part shade	avg	April	12-25'	Early source of nectar
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	perennial	shade, sun	avg	May-June	1-2'	Attracts hummingbirds
Blueberries	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	shrub	sun, part shade	avg	May	3-4'	Birds feed on berries; colorful fall foliage
Trumpet Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	vine	sun, light shade	avg	April-Oct		Red tubular flowers are a magnet for hummingbirds, this vine is not invasive
Arrow-wood Viburnum*	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	shrub	sun, part shade	avg	April-May	4-15'	Spring nectar source; birds feed on blue berries; host for Tawny Emperor butterflies
Dutchman's Pipevine*	<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>	vine	sun, part shade	avg	May-June		Host for Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies; <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> similar species
Blue False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	perennial	sun	avg	May-June	3-5'	Large showy deep-blue flowers; attractive blue-green foliage
Virginia Sweetspire*	<i>Itea virginica</i>	shrub	sun, part shade	avg	May-June	3-6'	Host for Azure butterflies; excellent early nectar source
Golden Alexander –(native) and non-native Parsley, Dill, Fennel, Carrots, and other plants in the carrot family							Host plants for Black Swallowtail butterflies
SUMMER							
Button Bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	shrub	sun, part shade	moist-avg	June-July	5-15'	White round flower-heads attractive to butterflies and other pollinators
Scarlet Bee Balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	perennial	sun, part shade	avg-moist	June	3-4'	Bright red flowers; attracts hummingbirds and butterflies
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	perennial	sun, part shade	avg	June-August	3-4'	Host for Silvery Checkerspot butterflies; attracts numerous butterflies
Common Milkweed*	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	perennial	sun, part shade	avg-moist	June	3-5'	Host for Monarch butterflies; excellent nectar plant
Purple Milkweed*	<i>Asclepias purpurea</i>	perennial	sun	avg-moist	June-July	2-3'	Host for Monarch butterflies; excellent nectar plant
Swamp Milkweed*	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	perennial	sun	avg-moist	July-August	4-5'	Host for Monarch butterflies; excellent nectar plant
Butterfly Weed*	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	perennial	sun	avg	June-July	2-3'	Host for Monarch butterflies; excellent nectar plant

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Tropical Milkweed * Non-native	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Annual	sun	avg	July-frost	3-5'	Host for Monarch butterflies ; excellent nectar plant, attracts migrating Monarchs
Sweet Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	perennial	sun, part shade	avg	July-Sept	3-4'	Also called Sweet Susan; similar to Orange Coneflower –(<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>)
Blazing Stars	<i>Liatis</i> spp.	perennial	sun	avg	June-Sept	3-6'	Attracts butterflies; different species bloom at different times; provides vertical interest
Royal Catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	perennial	sun	avg	July-August	3-4'	Showy red flowers on tall stems; attracts hummingbirds; an endangered species
FALL							
Mist Flower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	perennial	sun, part shade	avg-moist	Aug-Oct	2-3'	Excellent late Summer and Fall source of nectar
Hearts-a-Burstin'	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	shrub	sun, part shade	avg-moist	May-June		Also known as Strawberry Bush; showy fruits in October
Rough-leaved Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	perennial	sun, part shade	avg	Sept-Oct	3-4'	All goldenrod species are excellent late source of nectar; none cause hay fever
New England Aster*	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	perennial	sun	avg	Sept-Oct	4-5'	All asters are excellent late source of nectar, especially for migrating butterflies; Hosts for Pearl Crescent butterflies
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	shrub	sun, part shade	avg	May/bloom berries/Oct	10-18'	Spring nectar source; birds enjoy red berries which require female and male plants

*indicates butterfly host plants

Information is primarily from Shooting Star Nursery catalog

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Mail Order Sources for Systemic Pesticide FREE Nectar Plants and Milkweed

- Shooting Star Nursery - <http://shootingstarnursery.com> PLANTS ONLY
- Prairie Nursery – www.prairienursery.com SEEDS and PLANT SOURCE – See Monarch Butterfly Garden Package
- Dropseed Nursery - www.dropseednursery.com SEEDS and PLANT SOURCE
- Roundstone Seed – www.roundstoneseed.com SEEDS ONLY
- American Meadows Nursery - <http://www.americanmeadows.com> - SEEDS and PLANT SOURCE- not all native
- Ironweed Native Plant Nursery - www.ironweednursery.com (see Butterfly Garden Discount Package)

- All local garden centers are possible sources for native plants; ask for **pesticide-free** plants.