Reference Guide: Host Plants for Common Butterflies Species in Southeast WI

(Compiled by Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator)

	Butterfly Species	Common Larval Host Plants
1	Monarchs	Asclepias spp. – Red Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Showy Milkweed, Sullivant's Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Whorled Milkweed
2.	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Tulip tree, wild black cherry, sweet bay magnolia
3.	Red Admiral	Stinging nettles, false nettles
4.	Viceroy	Willows, Aspens, cottonwoods
5.	Black Swallowtail	Golden Alexanders, parsley, dill, fennel, Queen Anne's lace
6.	Cabbage White	Cabbage, kale, cauliflower, broccoli, radish, wild mustards, horseradish
7.	Clouded Sulphur	Alfalfa, clovers, vetches, senna, blue false indigo
8.	Common Wood Nymph	Kentucky bluegrass, fescue, sedges (Carex spp.)
9.	Silver spotted skipper	Black locust, honey locust, American wisteria, American hog peanut
10.	Mourning Cloak	Willow, elm, cottonwood, aspen, birch, hackberry
11.	Painted Lady	Thistles, hollyhocks, Pearly everlasting, Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*), Ten-rayed sunflower (*Helianthus decapetalus*)
12.	American Lady	Pearly everlasting, pussytoes, wormwood
13.	Eastern Comma	Stinging nettles, American elm, false nettle, common hops
14.	Question Mark	Northern hackberry
15.	Peck's Skipper	Rice cutgrass, little bluestem, Kentucky bluegrass,
16.	Variegated Fritillary	Violets, passion flower

References:

Cornell University : CCE Monroe Pollinator Friendly Garden Certification

Nectar rich plants for Adult butterfly species: (Adapted from Penn State Extension – Debra Carman)

Native Perennials

- Agastache (anise hyssop)
- Asclepias (milkweeds)
- Asters
- Echinacea (coneflower)
- Eupatorium hyssopifolium (thoroughwort)
- Eutrochium (joe pyes)
- Coreopsis (tickseed)
- Geranium maculatum (wild geranium)
- Helianthus (sunflowers)
- Heliopsis (oxeye sunflower)
- Liatris (blazing star)

- Lobelia species
- Monarda (bee balm)
- Oenothera (evening primrose)
- Phlox species
- Pycnanthemum (mountain mints)
- Rudbeckia (black-eyed susans)
- Solidagos (goldenrods)
- Vernonia (ironweeds)

Non-native Perennial Herbs

- catmint
- lavender
- oregano
- thyme

Non-native Annuals

- cosmos
- heliotrope
- lobelia
- marigold
- mexican sunflower
- pansies
- pentas
- petunias
- salvias
- sweet alyssum
- verbenas
- zinnias

Native Shrubs and Trees

- buttonbush
- dogwoods
- new jersey tea
- pussy willow
- spicebush
- summer sweet
- american holly
- blackhaw viburnum
- redbud
- serviceberries
- white oak
- wild black cherry