

Native Nectar Trees for Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	Zones	Habit	Size	Exposure	Comments
Ash, Common Prickly	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	3-7	D	15 to 25'	Sun to partial shade	Long prickles; yellowish green flowers; black seeds on female plants
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	3-8	D	60 to 75'	Sun to partial shade	Useful as shade tree in urban areas; yellow fall color
Birch, River	<i>Betula nigra</i>	3-9	D	25 to 40'	Sun to partial shade	Multi-trunk is desired; native tree; graceful branching
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	4-9	D	3 to 7'	Sun to partial shade	White flowers in spring; edible berries
Boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	3-9	D	30 to 50'	Sun to partial shade	Considered a weedy tree; attracts boxelder bugs
Buckeye	<i>Aesculus</i> spp.	5-8	D	20 to 50'	Sun	Pink, red or yellow flowers in early summer
Cherry, Black	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	3-9	D	50 to 60'	Sun	White flowers in spring; black fruit in summer; good fall foliage
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	2-6	D	20 to 30'	Sun	White flowers in spring; black fruit in summer; good fall foliage
Holly	<i>Ilex</i> spp.	5-9	E or D	15 to 45'	Sun to partial shade	
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	3-7	D	50 to 75'	Sun to partial shade	White to pink flowers in spring
Mulberry, Red	<i>Morus rubra</i>	5-9	D	40 to 70'	Sun	Fruit red turning black; sometimes good fall foliage
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	5-8	D	20 to 30'	Sun to partial shade	Native; marron flowers in spring; yellowish green fruit
Plum, Chickasaw	<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	5-9	D	25'	Sun	White flowers in spring; red fruit
Plum, Wild	<i>Prunus americana</i>	5-9	D	12 to 20	Sun	White flowers in spring; red fruit; edible fruit

Poplar, Tulip	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	5-8	D	60 to 150'	Sun	Branches are brittle; yellow fall color
Redbud, Eastern	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	4-9	D	20 to 30'	Sun to partial shade	Early flowers; drought tolerant
Serviceberry, Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.				Sun to partial shade	Early white flowers, edible fruit, fall color, nice bark
Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	5-8	D	20 to 30'	Sun to shade	White flowers in summer; red fall color
Witchhazel, Common	<i>Hamamelis virginianus</i>	3-8	D	20 to 30'	Sun to partial shade	Native; yellow flowers in fall
Willow, Black	<i>Salix nigra</i>	4-9	D	10 to 20'	Sun	Brittle wood; weedy tree

Prepared by: [Erv Evans](#), Consumer Horticulturist; adapted by Marc Radell

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