

Identifying butterfly host plants

National Wildlife Federation
www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder

Gardens with Wings
<http://www.gardenswithwings.com/index.html>

Butterflies of Cook County, Illinois
https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/checklists?species_type=0&tid=45970

Select options that will show you only butterflies of Cook County:



Regional Species Checklists

To generate a regional checklist of butterfly and/or moth species, select a species type, select a region from the drop-down menu(s), and click "Apply."

Species Type

butterfly

Region

United States

Illinois

Cook County

Apply

Reset

Print a checklist!

Click the PDF icon beneath the checklist to create a printable PDF.

Butterflies and Moths of Cook County, Illinois, United States

The BAMONA database currently includes verified sighting records for 254 species from this region.

Hesperiidae Skippers

Epargyreus clarus Silver-spotted Skipper
Thorybes pylades Northern Cloudywing
Thorybes bathyllus Southern Cloudywing
Erynnis icelus Dreamy Duskywing
Erynnis brizo Sleepy Duskywing
Erynnis juvenalis Juvenal's Duskywing
Erynnis horatius Horace's Duskywing
Erynnis martialis Mottled Duskywing
Erynnis baptisiae Wild Indigo Duskywing
Pyrgus centaureae Grizzled Skipper
Pyrgus communis Common Checkered-Skipper
Pholisora catullus Common Sootywing
Ancyloxypha numitor Least Skipper
Thymelicus lineola European Skipper
Hylephila phyleus Fiery Skipper
Hesperia leonardus Leonard's Skipper
Hesperia sassacus Indian Skipper
Atalopedes campestris Sachem
Polites peckius Peck's Skipper
Polites themistocles Tawny-edged Skipper



Butterfly Host Plants

Butterfly caterpillars are very picky eaters! Some will only eat the plants in a specific genus. Others may enjoy a broader selection but still limit their diet to plants in a certain taxonomic family. The following list includes host plants for some of the common butterfly species.
www.butterflyjane.com



Common Name	Genus	Host Plants	Common Name	Genus	Host Plants
monarch	<i>Danus plexippus</i>	Genus <i>Asclepias</i> milkweeds	red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	nettles, false nettles, hops
tiger swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	many trees - birch, lilac, cherry, tulip, willows	painted lady, American painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i> <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	composites, mallows, thistle
black swallow- tail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	carrot family - <i>Angelica</i> , <i>Zizia</i> , dill, parsley, fennel	buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	plantain, snapdragon, vervain, stonecrop, <i>Ruellia</i>
spicebush swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>	spicebush, sassafras, bays	red-spotted pur- ple	<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	apple, aspen, cherry, hawthorn, poplar, willow
giant swallowtail	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	prickly ash, citrus, rue, hops tree	viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	willow, poplar, aspen, apple, cherry, plum
pipevine swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>	pipevines, Virginia snakeroot	pearl crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	asters
cabbage white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	cabbage, cleome, mustards, nasturtium	gray hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	wide variety of plants - corn, oaks, strawberry, legumes and mallow
sulphurs	<i>Colias</i> spp., <i>Nathalis iole</i> <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	legumes - alfalfa, clovers, false indigo, sennas, vetch, marigold, sneezeweed	spring azure	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	blueberry, dogwood, viburnum, new jersey tea, wild cherry, spirea
morning cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	willow, aspen, elm, birch, hackberry	eastern tailed blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	legumes including vetches, clovers, alfalfa
comma, question mark	<i>Polygonia comma</i> , <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	hops vine, nettles, elm, hackberry	silver-spotted skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	wisteria, locusts, beans, tick trefoil
fritillaries	<i>Boloria</i> spp. <i>Speyeria</i> spp,	violets	fiery skipper, European skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i> <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	assorted grasses