

Top Keystone Plants for Butterfly and Moth Caterpillars

Genus	Common Plant Name	# of Caterpillar Species supported by this plant
Quercus	Oak	436
Prunus	Cherry	340
Salix	Willow	289
Betula	Birch	284
Populus	Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar	249
Acer	Maple	238
Malus	Apple	237
Vaccinium	Blueberry, Cranberry, Deerberry	217
Carya	Hickory	213
Pinus	Pine	200
Alnus	Alder	173
Ulmus	Elm	164
Picea	Spruce	132
Tilia	Basswood	132
Crataegus	Hawthorn	131
Rubus	Blackberry, Raspberry	127
Juglans	Walnut	125
Fraxinus	Ash	121
Fagus	Beech	116
Castanea	Chestnut	115
Abies	Fir	112
Larix	Larch	110
Corylus	Hazel	108
Solidago	Goldenrod	104
Myrica	Bayberry	103
Rosa	Rose	102
Symphyotrichum	Aster	100
Cornus	Dogwood	98
Tsuga	Hemlock	92
Amelanchier	Serviceberry	92

Adapted from NWF Garden for Wildlife – Keystone Native Plants

Top Native Host Plants for Pollen Specialist Bees

Genus	Common Plant Name	# of Pollen Specialist Bees relying on this plant
Helianthus	Sunflower	50
Solidago	Goldenrod	42
Symphyotrichum	Aster	33
Rudbeckia	Black-eyed Susan	29
Coreopsis	Tickseed	22
Chrysopsis	Goldenaster	20
Verbesina	Wingstem	17
Bidens	Beggartick	15
Cirsium	Thistle	15
Salix	Willow	14
Vaccinium	Blueberry, Cranberry, Deerberry	14
Erigeron	Fleabane	12
Vernonia	Ironweed	12
Pityopsis	Silkle-leaved Golden Aster	11
Baccharis	Eastern False Willow	8
Euthamia	Goldentop	8
Oenothera	Evening Primrose	7
Echinacea	Coneflower	6
Gaillardia	Blanketflower	6
Helenium	Sneezeweed	5
Heliopsis	Sunflower-everlasting	5
Cornus	Dogwood	4
Lyonia	Maleberry	4

Keystone plants are native plants critical to the food web and necessary for many wildlife species to complete their life cycle. Without keystone plants in the landscape, butterflies, native bees, and birds will not thrive. 96% of our terrestrial birds rely on insects supported by keystone plants.

