













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

Common name	Scientific name	Type	Light Pref.	Moisture	Flowers	Height	Note
<b>SPRING</b>							
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, attracts birds year around; this vine is not invasive
Arrow-wood Viburnum 	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	shrub	sun, part shade	avg	April-May	4-15'	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
Parsley, Dill, Fennel, Carrots, and native plants in the carrot family, including native Golden Alexander 							Host plants for Black Swallowtail butterflies
<b>SUMMER</b>							
Button Bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	shrub	sun	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	avg	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 of Monarch butterflyies; attracts forty-two species of butterflies
Purple Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias purpurea</i>	perennial	sun	avg-moist	June-July	2-3'	Host for Monarch butterflies
Swamp Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	perennial	sun	avg-moist	July-August	4-5'	Host for Monarch butterflies
Butterfly Weed 	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	perennial	sun	avg	June-July	2-3'	Host for Monarch butterflies
Tropical Milkweed 	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Annual (non-native)	sun	avg	July-frost	3-5'	Host for Monarch butterflies; attracts migrating Monarchs

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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>Liatris</i> spp.	perennial	sun	avg	June-Sept	3-6'	Different species bloom at different times; provide vertical interest
Royal Catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	perennial	sun	avg	July-August	3-4'	Showy red star-shaped flowers on tall stems; attracts hummingbirds
<b>FALL</b>							
Mist Flower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	perennial	sun, part shade	avg-moist	Aug-Oct	2-3'	Good source of nectar between summer and fall blossoms
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 for pollinators; none cause hay fever
New England Aster 	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	perennial	sun	avg	Sept-Oct	4-5'	Other aster species also good sources of nectar and hosts for Pearl Crescent butterflies
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	shrub	sun, part shade	avg	berries/Oct	10-18'	Nectar source; birds feed on attractive red berries; female plants have berries if male plant nearby

 indicates butterfly host plants

Information is primarily from Shooting Star Nursery catalog

### Local sources for milkweeds and native plants:

- **Wild Ones** annual plant exchange in May – for more information go to [www.wildones.org/chapters/lexington](http://www.wildones.org/chapters/lexington)
- **Down to Earth Garden Club** annual plant sale in May – for more information go to [www.downtoearthky.com](http://www.downtoearthky.com)
- **Springhouse Gardens**, 859-224-1417, owner Richard Weber is a business member of Wild Ones  
Located off Harrodsburg Rd, 4 miles south of Man-o-War, [www.springhousegardens.com](http://www.springhousegardens.com)
- **Michler's**, 859-254-0383, 417 E. Maxwell, Lexington, KY [www.michlers.com](http://www.michlers.com)
- **Dropseed Nursery**, 502-439-9033, near Louisville, KY [www.dropseednursery.com](http://www.dropseednursery.com)
- Local garden centers are possible sources for native plants; asking for natives can encourage these centers to sell them.