



spicebush



rebud



columbine



blueberry



honeysuckle



viburnum



pipevine



indigo



itea



buttonbush



bee balm



purple coneflower



common milkweed



purple milkweed



swamp milkweed



butterfly weed



tropical milkweed



sweet coneflower



blazing star



royal catchfly



hearts-a-burstin'



mist flower



winterberry



goldenrod



N E aster

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

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## 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

Common name	Scientific name	Type	Light Pref.	Moisture	Flowers	Height	Note
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.