



NATIVE PLANT FINDER



Commercially Available Host Plants for Butterflies and Moths

NORTH AMERICAN DESERTS Ecoregion

The caterpillars of butterflies and moths feed on the leaves of native plants. Without host plants, these important and beautiful insects cannot complete their lifecycle and their populations decline. Host plants with high butterfly and moth associations play a direct role in supporting bird populations. The native caterpillar host plants listed below are often available at local native plant sales, and increasingly found at nurseries and local garden centers. Please verify the plant is suitable for your local growing conditions.

Plant Type	Plant Name
Trees	Desert Willow (<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>)*
	Teddybear Cholla (<i>Cylindropuntia bigelovii</i> syn. <i>Opuntia bigelovii</i>)
	Rocky Mountain Juniper (<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>)
Shrubs	Greenleaf Manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos patula</i>)*
	Skunkbush Sumac (<i>Rhus trilobata</i> syn. <i>Rhus aromatica</i>)*
Flowering Perennials	Fringed Sage (<i>Artemisia frigida</i>)*
	Big Sage (<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>)*
	Silvery Lupine (<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>)*
	Tufted Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>)*
	Desert Penstemon (<i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i>)*
	Rocky Mountain Penstemon (<i>Penstemon strictus</i>)*
	Santa Fe Phlox (<i>Phlox nana</i>)*
Scarlet Globe-Mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>)*	

* Also Provides Nectar and Pollen for Adult Butterflies, Moths, Bees or Other Pollinators

Regional Plant Suppliers

While not a comprehensive list, these growers have been researched and are suggested as a good starting point.

RETAIL NURSERIES SERVING THIS ECOREGION

High Country Gardens (mail order)
www.highcountrygardens.com/

Plants of the Southwest in Santa Fe & Albuquerque, NM
www.plantsofthesouthwest.com/

Santa Ana Garden Center in Pueblo of Santa Ana, NM
www.santaana.org/garden.htm

WHOLESALE NURSERIES SERVING THIS ECOREGION

Santa Ana Native Plant & Tree Nursery in Pueblo of Santa Ana, NM
www.santaana.org/nursery.htm

Wildlands Nursery in Benton City, WA
www.wildlandsnursery.com/nursery/



Visit the Native Plant Finder at www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder

for a full list of native host plants naturally found in your zip code, ranked by the number of butterfly and moth species they support.

Geographic region is based on Omernik's Level I Ecoregions, as presented by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

Map: www.cec.org/tools-and-resources/map-files/terrestrial-ecoregions-level-i

Acknowledgements: The National Wildlife Federation wishes to thank Dr. Doug Tallamy of the University of Delaware, and Scott Canning of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden for information presented in this guide. Special thanks to American Beauties Native Plants for underwriting the development of these regional guides.

*Photo: Western Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus* – Lucas, 1852) Credit: Tom Karr*