

Because the larval stage (caterpillars) of butterflies and moths feed on the leaves of plants, butterflies and moths generally lay their eggs on the underside of leaves. Most caterpillars are generalists and will feed on the leaves of plants from many different plant families. A few are specialists and will feed only on the leaves of a specific genus of plants. For example, Monarch caterpillars will feed only on the leaves of Milkweed plants (*Asclepias spp.*). Other caterpillars show a preference for certain plant species. The caterpillar of the Spring Azure butterfly, for example, is more likely to forage on the leaves of Roundleaf Dogwood or Arrowwood. To support butterflies and moths throughout their life-cycle, The Gosling Pollinator Gardens include shrubs and perennials that are the preferred forage plants for various species of butterfly that may be seen in southern Ontario (see chart below).

PLANTS TO FEED BUTTERFLY LARVAE

Latin Name	Common Name	Forage for the Larvae of:
<i>Cornus rugosa</i>	Roundleaf dogwood	Spring Azure butterfly
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood	Spring Azure butterfly
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Smooth Serviceberry	Tiger Swallowtail butterfly
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Sumac	Red-banded Hairstreak butterfly
<i>Anaphalis spp.</i>	e.g. Pearly Everlasting, Pussytoes	American Lady butterfly
<i>Asclepias spp.</i>	e.g. Common, Butterfly and Swamp Milkweed	Monarch butterfly
<i>Baptisia lacteal</i>	Wild White Indigo	Clouded Sulphur butterfly
<i>Helianthus maximillianii</i>	Maximillian sunflower	Silvery Checkerspot butterfly
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White turtlehead	Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Silvery Checkerspot butterfly
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild columbine	Columbine Duskywing butterfly
<i>Apiaceae spp.</i>	e.g. Dill, parsley, carrot and fennel	Black Swallowtail butterfly
<i>Urticaceae</i>	Stinging Nettle	Eastern Comma butterfly
<i>Spirea alba</i>	White Meadowsweet	Mourning Cloak butterfly