Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas

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Plant Family					
Scientific Name	Common Name	Caterpillar Food Plant For These Butterflies			

Acanthaceae - Acanthus Family

Anisacanthus quadrifidus Flame Acanthus Crimson Patch **Texan Crescent** Dicliptera brachiata Branched Dicliptera Dyschoriste linearis Common Buckeye Snake Herb Ruellia caroliniensis Carolina Wild Petunia **Texan Crescent** Ruellia drummondiana Drummond's Wild Petunia Common Buckeye Ruellia nudiflora Violet Wild Petunia Common Buckeye

Ruellia occidentalis Western Wild Petunia Common Buckeye, White Peacock

Justicia pilosella Hairy Tube-tongue Elada Checkerspot, Vesta Crescent, Texan Crescent

Agavaceae - Century-Plant Family

Yucca constrictaBuckley's YuccaYucca Giant-SkipperYucca rupicolaTwist-leaf yuccaYucca Giant-Skipper

Aizoaceae - Fig-Marigold Family

Trianthema portulacastrum Desert Horsepurslane Western Pygmy-Blue

Apiaceae – Carrot Family

Daucus pusillusWild carrotBlack SwallowtailCyclospermumMarsh ParsleyBlack SwallowtailFoeniculum vulgareSweet FennelBlack SwallowtailPolytaeniaPrairie ParsleyBlack SwallowtailAnethum graveolensDillBlack Swallowtail

Asclepiadaceae - Milkweed Family

Asclepias amplexicaulis	Clasping Milkweed	Queen	
Asclepias asperula	Antelope Horn Milkweed	Monarch, Queen	[a preferred monarch host plant]

Asclepias curassavica Tropical Milkweed Monarch, Queen [easiest milkweed to propagate, though not native to CenTex]

Asclepias incarnata Swamp Milkweed Monarch

Asclepias oenotheroides Zizotes or Sidecluster mw Monarch [a preferred monarch host plant]

Asclepias texana Texas Milkweed Monarch

Asclepias tuberosa Butterflyweed Monarch, Gray Hairstreak

Asclepias viridis Green Milkweed Monarch [a preferred monarch host plant]

Cynanchum barbigerumCynanchumVariegated FritillaryCynanchum racemosumTalayoteQueen, Soldier

Funastrum crispum Wavy-leaf Milkvine Queen, Soldier, Monarch

Funastrum cynanchoidesFringed MilkvineSoldierMatelea edwardsensisPlateau MilkvineQueen

Asteraceae - Aster Family

Solidago altissima

[many plants in this family are also very good nectar plants]

Achillea millefolium Common Yarrow Painted Lady

Ageratina havanensis Shrubby Boneset Rawson's Metalmark, Bordered Patch [was: Eupatorium havanensis]

Ambrosia artemisiifolia Annual Ragweed Bordered Patch

Ambrosia trifida Giant Ragweed Bordered Patch, Gorgon Checkerspot

Artemisia ludoviciana White Sagebrush Painted Lady, American Lady

Baccharis salicifolia Seep Willow Fatal Metalmark, Elada Checkerspot

Bidens aristosa Bearded Beggarticks Dainty Sulphur

Carduus nutans Musk Thistle Painted Lady, American Lady

Centaurea americana American Basket-flower Painted Lady

Cirsium ochrocentrum Yellow-spine Thistle Painted Lady, American Lady

Conoclinium betonicifolium Betony-leaf Mistflower Rounded Metalmark [was: Eupatorium betonicifolium]

Conoclinium greggii Gregg's Mistflower Rawson's Metalmark [was: Eupatorium greggii]

Conyza canadensisCanadian HorseweedSilvery CheckerspotDyssodia tagetoidesFalse DogfennelDainty SulphurEupatorium serotinumLateflowering ThoroughwortRounded MetalmarkGaillardia pulchellaIndian BlanketBordered Patch

Gnaphalium Cudweed American Lady
Helenium amarum Yellow Sneezeweed Dainty Sulphur

Helianthus annuus Common Sunflower Bordered Patch, Gorgon Checkerspot, Silvery Checkerspot, Painted Lady, American Lady

Silvery Checkerspot

Helianthus maximilianiMaximillian SunflowerBordered PatchHelianthus petiolarisPrairie SunflowerGorgon CrescentHeterotheca subaxillarisCamphorweedBordered Patch

Palafoxia callosa Small Palafoxia Bordered Patch, Dainty Sulphur

Santa Maria Feverfew **Bordered Patch** Parthenium hysterophorus Rudbeckia hirta Brown-eyed Susan Silvery Checkerspot Texas Groundsel Senecio ampullaceus American Lady Silphium **Bordered Patch** Rosinweed Mediterranean Milk-thistle Silybum marianum American Lady Simsia calva **Bush Sunflower Bordered Patch**

Canadian Goldenrod

Symphyotrichum drummondiiDrummond's AsterPearl CrescentSymphyotrichum ericoidesWhite Heath AsterPearl CrescentSymphyotrichum praealtumWillowleaf AsterPearl CrescentVerbesina encelioidesCowpen DaisyBordered Patch

Verbesina virginica Frostweed Bordered Patch, Silvery Checkerspot

Vernonia baldwiniiBaldwin's IronweedPainted LadyViguiera dentataToothleaf GoldeneyeBordered Patch

Wedelia acapulcensis Zexmenia Bordered Patch [was: Zexmenia hispida]

Xanthium strumarium Rough Cockleburr Bordered Patch

Bignoniaceae – Trumpet-Creeper Family

Catalpa Common Catalpa Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Boraginaceae - Borage Family

Myosotis Forget-me-not Painted Lady

Brassicaceae - Mustard Family

Arabis canadensisSicklepodFalcate OrangetipArabis petiolarisBrazos RockcressOlympia Marble

Descurainia pinnata Western Tansymustard Olympia Marble, Cabbage White, Checkered White

Lepidium virginicumVirginia PeppergrassFalcate Orangetip, WhitesNasturtium officinaleWatercressGreat Southern WhiteStreptanthus bracteatusBracted TwistflowerFalcate Orangetip

Cannaceae - Canna Family

Canna Canna Brazilian Skipper

Capparidaceae - Caper Family

Polanisia dodecandra Redwhisker Clammyweed Cabbage White, Checkered White, Great Southern White

Crassularaceae - Stonecrop Family

Sedum nuttallianum Yellow Stonecrop Gray Hairstreak, Common Buckeye, Variegated Fritillary

Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family

Bernardia myricifolia Mouse Ears Lacey's Hairstreak
Castela erecta Texan Goatbush Florida White

Croton fruticulosus Bush Croton Gray Hairstreak, Goatweed Leafwing, Tropical Leafwing

Tragia Noseburn Common Mestra, Red Rim, Blue-eyed Sailor

Fabaceae - Legume Family [lots of caterpillar food plants in this family]

Acaciella angustissima Fern Acacia Outis Skipper, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue

Amorpha fruticosaFalse Indigo BushSilver-spotted Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Southern DogfaceAstragalus lotiflorusLotus MilkvetchGray Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Tailed Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Orange Sulphur

Baptisia australis Wild Blue Indigo Wild indigo Duskywing, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur

Bauhinia lunarioides Anacacho Orchid Tree Long-tailed Skipper

Cercis canadensis Eastern Redbud Henry's Elfin

Chamaecrista fasciculata Partridge Pea Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur, Clouded Sulphur

Desmodium Ticktrefoil Long-tailed Skipper, Dorantes Longtail, Cassius & Tailed Blue, Variegated Frit, Tailed Orange

Ebenopsis ebano Texas Ebony Cassius Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Orange-barred Sulphur, Orange Sulphur

Eysenhardtia texana Texas Kidneywood Southern Dogface

Indigofera lindheimeriana Lindheimer Scarlet Pea Fasle Duskywing, Gray Hairstreak, Cassius Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Southern Dogface

Lupinus texensis Texas Bluebonnet Northern Cloudywing, Gray Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin, Painted & American Lady, Orange Sulphur

Melilotus albus White Sweet Clover Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur

Phaseolus polystachios Thicket Bean Silver-spotted Skipper, Painted Lady, Orange Sulphur

Prosopis glandulosa Honey Mesquite Marine Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue

Robinia pseudoacacia Black Locust Zarucco Duskywing, Mexican Yellow

Mimosa Sensitive Briar Little Yellow, Mimosa yellow

Senegalia roemeriana Catclaw Acacia Reakirt's Blue, Mexican Yellow [was: Acacia roemeriana]

Senna lindheimeri Lindheimer Senna Orange Sulphur, Yellow Angled-Sulphur, Mexican Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur

Senna roemeriana Two-leaf Senna Tailed Orange, Orange Sulphur, Statira Sulphur Sesbania drummondii Rattlebush Funereal Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Orange Sulphur

Sophora secundiflora Texas Mountain Laurel Henry's Elfin (Solatus ssp.)

Tephrosia lindheimeri Lindheimer's Hoary Pea White-striped Longtail

Trifolium repens White Clover Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Painted Lady, Orange Sulphur, Southern Dogface

Vicia Vetch Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur

Hydrophyllaceae - Waterleaf Family

Phacelia congesta Blue Curls Painted Lady

Lamiaceae - Mint Family [many plants in this family are also very good nectar plants]

Salvia coccineaTropical SagePainted LadyStachys crenataShade BetonyPainted Lady

Linaceae - Flax Family

Linum Flax Variegated Fritillary

Loganiaceae - Pinkroot Family

Spigelia texana Texas Pinkroot Soldier

Malvaceae - Mallow Family [many plants in this family are also very good nectar plants]

Abutilon fruticosumTexas Indian mallowCommon Streaky-Skipper, Texas Powdered-SkipperAbutilon incanumHoary AbutilonCommon Streaky-Skipper, Texas Powdered-SkipperAllowissadula holosericeaChisos Mtn False IndianmwCommon Streaky-Skipper, Texas Powdered-Skipper

Callirhoe involucrataPurple WinecupGray HairstreakGossypium hirsutumUpland CottonPainted Lady

Malva neglecta Common Mallow Painted Lady, American Lady

Sida lindheimeri Lindheimer's Sida Checkered-Skipper, Laviana White-Skipper

Sida spinosa Prickly fanpetals Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak

Nyctaginaceae - Four-O'clock Family

Boerhavia coccinea Scarlet Spiderling Variegated Fritillary

Oxalidaceae - Wood-Sorrel Family

Oxalis dillenii Yellow Woodsorrel Cyna Blue [rare CenTex butterfly]

Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family

Plantago lanceolata Narrowleaf Plantain Common Buckeye, Painted Lady, Variegated Fritillary

Plumbaginaceae - Leadwort Family

Plumbago scandens Mexican Plumbago Cassius Blue, Marine Blue [rare CenTex butterflies]

Poaceae - Grass Family

Bouteloua curtipendula Side-oats Grama Grass-Skippers, Satyrs

Polygonaceae - Buckwheat Family

Eriogonum annuum Annual Buckwheat Hairstreaks

Portulacaceae - Purslane Family

Portulaca umbraticola Wingpod Purslane Variegated Fritillary

Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family

Agalinis edwardsiana Plateau False Foxglove Common Buckeye Prairie False Foxglove **Tropical Buckeye** Agalinis heterophylla Bacopa Water Hyssop White Peacock Castilleja indivisa Texas Indian Paintbrush Common Buckeye Castilleja purpurea Prairie Paintbrush Common Buckeye Leucophyllum frutescens Cenizo, Purple Sage Theona Checkerspot Texas Toadflax Common Buckeye Linaria texana

Lindernia dubiaYellowseed False PimpernelWhite PeacockMaurandella antirrhinifloraSnapdragon VineCommon BuckeyePenstemon cobaeaFoxglove PenstemonCommon BuckeyeStemodia lanataWoolly StemodiaTropical Buckeye

Turneraceae - Yellow-Alder Family

Turnera diffusa Damiana Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary

Urticaceae - Nettle Family

Urtica Nettles Red Admiral, Painted Lady, American Lady, Question Mark, Eastern Comma

Verbenaceae - Verbena Family [many plants in this family are also very good nectar plants]

Lippia albaBushy LippiaWhite Peacock,Phyla incisaCommon FrogfruitPhaon CrescentPhyla lanceolataNorthern Frog-fruitPhaon CrescentVerbena haleiTexas VervainCommon Buckeye

Violaceae - Violet Family

Hybanthus verticillatus Babyslippers Variegated Fritillary

Viscaceae - Christmas Mistletoe Family

Phoradendron Mistletoe Great Purple Hairstreak

SHRUBS

Anacardiaceae - Sumac Family

Rhus virens Evergreen Sumac Dusky-blue Groundstreak

Toxicodendron radicans Poison Ivy Dusky-blue Groundstreak [probably don't want to plant this one]

Aquifoliaceae - Holly Family

Ilex Yaupon Dusky-blue Groundstreak

Cornaceae - Dogwood Family

Cornus drummondii Rough-leaf Dogwood Spring Azure

Malpighiaceae – Barbados-Cherry Family

Malpighia glabra Barbados Cherry Cassius Blue

Simaroubaceae - Quassia-Wood Family

Castela erecta Texan Goatbush Florida White

Styracaceae - Snowball Family

Styrax platanifolius Sycamore-leaf Snowbell Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Zygophyllaceae - Creosote-Bush Family

Guaiacum angustifolium Guayacan Gray Hairstreak, Lyside Sulphur

TREES

Aceraceae - Maple Family

Acer negundo Boxelder Banded Hairstreak, Mourning Cloak

Cupressaceae - Cypress Family

Juniperus asheiAshe JuniperOlive HairstreakJuniperus virginianaEastern Red CedarOlive Hairstreak

Ebenaceae - Ebony Family

Diospyros texana Texas Persimmon Gray Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin

Fagaceae - Oak Family

Quercus buckleyiTexas Red OakSkippers, Hairstreaks, AdmiralsQuercus fusiformisTexas Live OakSkippers, Hairstreaks, Arizona SisterQuercus marilandicaBlackjack OakSkippers, Hairstreaks, AdmiralsQuercus sinuataBastard OakSkippers, Hairstreaks, Arizona Sister

Juglandaceae - Walnut Family

Carya illinoinensisPecanHairstreaksJuglansWalnutHairstreaks

Lauraceae - Laurel Family

Lindera benzoin Northern Spicebush Spicebush Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Persea borbonia Redbay Palamedes, Spicebush, Eastern Tiger, and Giant Swallowtail

Sassafras albidum Sassafrass Palamedes, Spicebush, and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Moraceae - Mulberry Family

Ficus Figs Daggerwings [we should be so lucky!]

Morus Mulberries Daggerwings

Oleaceae - Olive Family

Fraxinus americana White Ash Mourning Cloak

Fraxinus pennsylvanica Green Ash Banded Hairstreak, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Two-tailed Swallowtail

Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family

Ceanothus herbaceusRedrootSpring AzureKarwinskia humboldtianaCoyotilloTwo-barred Flasher

Rhamnus caroliniana Carolina Buckthorn Gray Hairstreak, Spring Azure, Painted Lady

Rosaceae - Rose Family

Crataegus Hawthorne Gray Hairstreak, Banded Hairstreak, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple

Prunus serotina var. eximia Escarpment Black Cherry Banded Hairstreak, Spring Azure, Eastern Tiger & Two-tailed Swt, Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple

Rutaceae - Citrus Family

Ptelea trifoliata Wafer Ash Eastern Tiger, Two-tailed, and Giant Swallowtails

Thamnosma texana Dutchman's Breeches Black Swallowtail

Zanthoxylum hirsutum Texas Prickly Ash Eastern Tiger, Two-tailed, and Giant Swallowtails

Zanthoxylum fagara Colima Sickle-winged Skipper, Giant Swallowtail

Salicaceae - Willow Family

Populus deltoides Eastern Cottonwood Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Admiral

Salix nigra Black Willow Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Admiral

Sapindaceae - Soapberry Family

Sapindus saponaria Soapberry Soapberry Hairstreak

Ungnadia speciosa Mexican Buckeye Henry's Elfin

Tiliaceae - Linden Family

Tilia americana American Basswood White-M Hairstreak, Eastern Comma, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple

Ulmaceae - Elm Family

Celtis laevigata Sugar Hackberry American Snout, Emperors, Question Mark

Celtis pallida Granjeno, Spiny Hackberry American Snout, Empress Leila

Ulmus americana American Elm Question Mark, Eastern Comma, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady

VINES

Aristolochiaceae - Pipevine Family

Aristolochia erecta Swanflower Pipevine Swallowtail, Polydamas Swallowtail

Convolvulaceae - Morning-Glory Family

Ipomoea cordatotriloba Purple Bindweed Variegated Fritillary

Passifloraceae - Passionvine Family

Passiflora affinis Bracted Passionflower Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian

Passiflora foetida Corona de Cristo Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary

Passiflora incarnata Purple Passionflower Variegated Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary

Passiflora lutea Yellow Passionflower Julia Heliconian, Mexican Silverspot, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
Passiflora suberosa Corkstem Passionflower Julia Heliconian, Mexican Silverspot, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian

Passiflora tenuiloba Slender-lobe Passionflower Gulf Fritillary

Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family

Clematis drummondii

Old Man's Beard

Fatal Metalmark

List primarily modified from:

Central Texas Butterfly Gardening

Plants useful as food for butterfly larvae in Central Texas – Compiled by Chris Durden

http://bit.ly/2BWOiB4

Native Plant Information:

Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country

Enquist, M. 1987

Lone Star Botanical, Austin. 275 pp.

Native & Naturalized Woody Plants of Austin & the Hill Country

Brother Daniel Lynch, C.S.C. 1981.

Acorn Press, Austin. 180 pp.

Butterfly Information:

Butterflies Through Binoculars, The West

Jeffrey Glassberg, 2001.

Oxford University Press, Oxford. 384 pp.

Focus Guide to Butterflies of North America

Jim P. Brock & Kenn Kaufman. 2003. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 384 pp.

Travis County Butterfly Checklist

http://www.texasento.net/Travislist.htm

Caterpillar Information:

Caterpillars in the Field and Garden

Thomas Allen, Jim Brock and Jeffrey Glassberg. 2005.

Oxford University Press, Oxford. 224 pp.

Caterpillars of Eastern North America

David Wagner. 2005.

Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 496 pp.

Gardening for Butterflies and Pollinator Information:

Butterfly Gardening for Texas

Geyata Ajilvsgi. 2013

Texas A&M Press, College Station. 448 pp.

Pollinator Conservation Handbook

The Xerces Society and The Bee Works. 2003. The Xerces Society, Portland, OR. 145 pp.

Butterfly Nectar (and Host) Plants for Central Texas

http://www.texasento.net/CenTexNectar.pdf

Butterfly/Entomology Club:

Austin Butterfly Forum

Meetings held in the Zilker Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin at 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday of each month except December. Membership is \$20 annually per household payable during meetings or by mail to Doris Hill, ABF Treasurer, 1605 Broadmoor, Austin, TX 78723. http://www.austinbutterflies.org/

For more information, please contact Mike Quinn, ABF board member at 512-577-0250 or entomike@gmail.com

Butterfly, Insect, and Plant Websites:

BugGuide: https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740

Butterflies of America: https://www.butterfliesofamerica.com/

USDA Plants Database: https://plants.usda.gov/java/

Wildflower Center Plant Database: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/