

# NATIVE Caterpillars Moths and Butterflies and host NATIVE Woodies



Double toothed Prominent



Honey locust Moth

In a study published in 2009, **Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, Ph.D**, chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware specifically addressed the usefulness of native woodies as host plants for our native caterpillars (and obviously therefore moths and butterflies).

We present here a partial list, and the number of Lepidopteran species that rely on them. Please note that two genera (Rhamnus and Frangula) are marked \*\*. Both have species commonly named ‘buckthorn’. In fact, both genera have more native than non-native buckthorns. <http://plants.usda.gov/> is an excellent site to check-out any uncertainties.

Keep this list in mind as you think about replacing the ash trees that have succumbed to the emerald ash borer.

## Species of Caterpillars

Oaks (Quercus)	557	Beeches (Fagus)	127
Cherries (Prunus)	456	Serviceberry (Amelanchier)	124
Willows (Salix)	455	Larches or Tamaracks (Larix)	121
Birches (Betula)	411	Dogwoods (Cornus)	118
Poplars (Populus)	367	Firs (Abies)	117
Crabapples (Malus)	308	Bayberries (Myrica)	108
Maples (Acer)	297	Viburnums (Viburnum)	104
Blueberries (Vaccinium)	294	Currants (Ribes)	(99)
Alders (Alnus)	255	Hop Hornbeam (Ostrya)	94
Hickories (Carya)	235	Hemlocks (Tsuga)	92
Elms (Ulmus)	215	Spireas (Spiraea)	89
Pines (Pinus)	201	Grapes (Vitis)	79
Hawthorns (Crataegus)	168	Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga)	76
Berries (Rubus)	163	Locusts (Robinia)	72
Spruces (Picea)	150	Hornbeams (Carpinus)	68
Ashes (Fraxinus)	149	Mountain ashes (Sorbus)	68
Linden or Basswood (Tilia)	149	Sweetfern (Comptonia)	64
Pears (Pyrus)	138	Witch-hazels (Hamamelis)	63
Roses (Rosa)	135	Sumacs (Rhus)	58
Filberts (Corylus)	131	Rhododendrons (Rhododendron)	51
Walnut (Juglans)	129	Arborvitae (Thuja)	50
Chestnuts (Castanea)	127	Persimmons (Diospyros)	46



Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) larva defensive



Giant Swallowtail





Hackberry Emperor PHOTO: Megan McCarty



Big Poplar Sphinx



Big Poplar Sphinx (*Pachysphinx occidentalis*)

Honey-locusts ( <i>Gleditsia</i> )	46	Magnolias ( <i>Magnolia</i> )	21
New Jersey Tea ( <i>Ceanothus</i> )	45	Buttonbush ( <i>Cephalanthus</i> )	19
Sycamores ( <i>Platanus</i> )	45	Redbuds ( <i>Cercis</i> )	19
Huckleberry ( <i>Gaylussacia</i> )	44	Green-briar ( <i>Smilax</i> )	19
Hackberry ( <i>Celtis</i> )	43	Wisterias ( <i>Wisteria</i> )	19
Junipers ( <i>Juniperus</i> )	42	Redbay (native) ( <i>Persea</i> )	18
Elders ( <i>Sambucus</i> )	42	Bearberry ( <i>Arctostaphylos</i> )	17
Ninebark ( <i>Physocarpus</i> )	41	Bald cypresses ( <i>Taxodium</i> )	16
Lilacs ( <i>Syringa</i> )	40	Leatherleaf ( <i>Chamaedaphne</i> )	15
Hollies ( <i>Ilex</i> )	39	Poison Ivy ( <i>Toxicodendron</i> )	15
Sassafras ( <i>Sassafras</i> )	38	Sourwood ( <i>Oxydendrum</i> )	14
Honeysuckles ( <i>Lonicera</i> )	37	Pepper vine ( <i>Ampelopsis</i> )	13
Sweet-gums ( <i>Liquidambar</i> )	35	Madrone ( <i>Arbutus</i> )	12
Mountain-laurel ( <i>Kalmia</i> )	33	Pawpaw ( <i>Asimina</i> )	12
Buckeyes ( <i>Aesculus</i> )	33	Colorado Barberry ( <i>Berberis</i> )	12
Virginia Creeper ( <i>Parthenocissus</i> )	32	Prairie Acacia ( <i>Acacia</i> )	11
Red and Black Chokeberries ( <i>Photinia</i> )	29	Euonymus ( <i>Euonymus</i> )	11
Black Gums or Tupelo ( <i>Nyssa</i> )	26	Buckthorn** ( <i>Frangula</i> )	11
Snowberries ( <i>Symphoricarpos</i> )	25	Spicebush ( <i>Lindera</i> )	11
Buffalo-berries ( <i>Shepherdia</i> )	22	Fetterbush ( <i>Lyonia</i> )	11
Tulip-trees ( <i>Liriodendron</i> )	21	Summersweet ( <i>Clethra</i> )	10
		Buckthorns** ( <i>Rhamnus</i> )	10

Honey locust caterpillar feeds on Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) and Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*); wingspan 2-2.5 inches

Big Poplar Sphinx (*Pachysphinx occidentalis*); 5-6 inch wing span; two generations per year. Populus and Salix

Cecropia silkworm (*Hyalophora cecropia*); 6-inch wing span

Caterpillar Hosts: Various trees and shrubs including box elder (*Acer negundo*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*), wild cherries and plums (*Prunus*), apples (*Malus*), alder and birch (*Betulaceae*), dogwoods (*Cornus*), and willows (*Salix*). Larvae of these moths are most commonly found on maple trees, but they have been known to feed on cherry and birch trees among many others

Butterflies that use *Zanthoxylum americanum* as a larval food source include the Thoas Swallowtail (*Papilio thoas*) and Spicebush Swallowtail (*P. troilus*)

The Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) is a swallowtail butterfly common in various parts of North America and marginally into South America (Colombia and Venezuela only). In the United States and Canada it is mainly found in the south and east. With a wingspan of about 10–16 cm (3.9–6.3 in), it is the largest butterfly in Canada and the United States



Cecropia caterpillar (*Hyalophora cecropia*) *Hyalophora c.* newly emerged male PHOTO: Charles Benjamin Schwamb