

Table II. Plants to attract butterflies.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Select Varieties	Bloom Color	Ht./ Spread	Bloom Time	Remarks	Larval Source	Nectar Source
Perennials Attractive to Butterflies								
Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	many	purple	16"-20"	May-Sept	Old plants lodge	X	X
Allium, Ornamental	<i>Allium senescens</i>	'Glaucum'	lavender	12"-12"	July-Sept	Long bloom season		X
Aster, Dwarf	<i>Aster x dumosus</i>	'Woods Dwarfs'	pink, purple, white	48"-36"	Sept-Oct	Dwarf, very little seed production	X	X
Aster, Fendler's	<i>Aster fendleri</i>	'My Antonia'	purple, white	6"-12"	July-Sept	Native, good drainage needed	X	X
Aster, New England	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	'Purple Dome'	pink, purple, white	36"-48"	Sept-Oct	Taller aster, late	X	X
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda</i> spp.	'Jacob Kline'	pink-lavender, red	18"-18"	June-Aug	Colonizes		X
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	'Prairie Sun'	yellow-orange	24"-24"	July-Sept	Seeds itself, treat as an annual	X	
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	'Goldstrum'	yellow-orange	18"-24"	July-Sept	Seeds itself		X
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	'Baby Cole', 'Goblin', 'Burgunder'	yellow-red	18"-24"	June-Sept	Seeds itself, can be short lived		X
Catmint	<i>Nepeta</i> spp.	'Fassen's', 'Six Hills Hybrids', 'Walker's Low'	lavender	18"-18"	May-Oct	Several species		X
Chrysanthemum	<i>Dendranthema</i> spp.	many	assorted	varies	Aug-Oct	Hardiness varies	X	
Coneflower, Narrowleaf	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	species type	pink	36"-24"	June-Aug	Native	X	X
Coneflower, Purple	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	'Magus', 'Cygnet White'	purple, pink, white	36"-24"	June-July	Native	X	X
Coneflower, Pale	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	species type	lavender	30"-24"	June-July	Native, most drought tolerant of the species	X	X
Coreopsis, Threadleaf	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	'Moonbeam', 'Zagreb'	yellow	18"-24"	June-Sept	Long bloom season, drought tolerant		X
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	many	assorted, warm colors	varies	June-Sept	Variable		X
Gayfeather, Dotted	<i>Liatrix punctata</i>	species type	rose-purple	20"-24"	Sept	Native		X
Gayfeather, Tall	<i>Liatrix pycnostachya</i>	'Eureka'	rose-purple	60"-24"	June-Aug	Native		X
Gayfeather, Spike	<i>Liatrix spicata</i>	'Kobold', 'Floristan White'	rose-purple, white		June-July	Cut flower		X
Goldenrod species	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	'Fireworks', 'Golden Baby'	yellow	varies	July-Sept	Cut back for rebloom, good dried		X
Goldenrod, Stiff	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	species type	yellow	30"-10"	July-Aug	Native		X
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	many	assorted	72"-12"	May-Aug	Rust susceptible, allow to reseed	X	X
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	species type	red-violet	48"-24"	July-Sept	Prefers moist soils		X
Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	'Gateway'	purple	72"-48"	July-Sept	Better in eastern Nebraska, takes wet sites		X
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	'Provence', 'Hidcote'	lavender-blue	18"-18"	June-July	Semi-woody	X	X
Leadplant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	species type	lavender-blue	36"-36"	June-July	Native, semi-woody, drought tolerant		X
Milkweed, Butterfly	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	species type, 'Hello Yellow'	orange, red, yellow	24"-24"	June-July	Native, difficult to transplant	X	X
Milkweed, Common	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	species type	pink	28"-15"	May-Aug	Common native milkweed, can be weedy	X	X
Milkweed, Swamp	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	species type, 'Ice Ballet'	pink, white	48"-15"	July-Aug	Best in moist sites	X	X
Pasqueflower	<i>Pulsatilla</i> spp.	'Rubra', 'Heiler Hybrids'	purple, white, red	12"-12"	Apr-May	Native, very early		X
Phlox, Prairie	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	'Eco Happy Traveler'	rose-pink	15"-15"	May-June	Native, fragrant		X
Pinks, Cheddar	<i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i>	'Spotti', 'Dottie', 'Tiny Rubies'	white, rose-pink, red	8"-8"	May-June	Fragrant		X
Pitcher Sage	<i>Salvia azurea</i>	'Nekan'	blue, pink, white	24"-48"	Aug-Sept	Native		X
Prairie Clover, Purple	<i>Dalea purpureum</i>	'Stephanie'	purple	20"-15"	June-July	Native	X	X
Prairie Clover, Silky	<i>Dalea villosa</i>	'Sandhills Satin'	pink	15"-24"	July-Aug	Sandy sites	X	X
Primrose, Missouri	<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	'Commanche Campfire'	yellow	15"-30"	July-Aug	Drought tolerant	X	X
Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria</i> spp.	species type	white, pink	2"-12"	May-June	Tiny groundcover for dry sites	X	X
Sea Lavender	<i>Limonium latifolium</i>	species type	blue, white	24"-24"	July-Aug		X	
Sedum Low varieties	<i>Sedum</i> spp.	'Gold Carpet', 'Dragon's Blood'	yellow, red, pink	6"-18"	June-July	Very adaptable		X
Sedum Tall varieties	<i>Sedum</i> spp.	'Indian Chief', 'Autumn Fire'	pink, bronze	24"-18"	Aug-Sept	Cut or dried flowers		X
Shasta Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum x</i>	'Alaska', 'Becky', 'Crazy Daisy'	white	24"-36"	June-July	Excellent cut flower		X
Sweet Clover	<i>Melilotus</i> spp.	species type	yellow, white	30"-30"	May-Oct	Consumed by domestic livestock	X	X
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	several	white	15"-15"	May-Oct	Can be a lawn weed	X	X
Yarrow spp.	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	'Paprika', 'Terra Cotta'	assorted	24"-36"	June-July	Prefers low fertility		X

Common Name	Scientific Name	Select Varieties	Bloom Color	Ht./ Spread	Bloom Time	Remarks	Larval Source	Nectar Source
Annuals Attractive to Butterflies								
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum x hybrida</i>	'Blue Horizon', 'Blue Pacific'	blue, lavender, white	varies	June-Oct	Trim off old flowers for repeat bloom		X
Broccoli	<i>Brassica</i> spp.	'Packman'	green	18"-12"	June	Replant for fall crop	X	
China Aster	<i>Callistephus chinensis</i>	many	assorted	12"-12"	June-Sept	Replant for fall crop		X
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	'Sensation', 'Shellleaf'	white, pink, crimson	60"-18"	June-Oct	Avoid overwatering		X
Flowering Cabbage	<i>Brassica</i> spp.	'Color Up'	reds, pinks, greens	18"-12"	Aug-Oct	Best in cool weather	X	
Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	many	white, pink, red	36"-12"	June-Sept	Straight species is fragrant, white		X
Globe Candytuft	<i>Iberis umbellata</i>	many	assorted	12"-6"	June-Oct	Fragrant		X
Gomphrena	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	'Strawberry Fields'	assorted	30"-18"	June-Sept	Excellent for drying, clover-like flowers		X
Marigold, African	<i>Tagetes erecta</i>	many	yellow, orange	40"-18"	May-Oct	Natural nematode control		X
Marigold, French	<i>Tagetes patula</i>	many	yellow, orange, bronze	12"-6"	May-Oct	Border plant		X
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	many	yellow, orange, red	12"-8"	May-Oct	Tolerates poor soil		X
Petunia	<i>Petunia</i> spp.	many	assorted	18"-12"	May-Oct	Provides season-long color		X
Salvia	<i>Salvia</i> spp.	many	red, blue	12"-15"	May-Oct	Upright plants, also attract hummingbirds		X
Scabiosa	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	several	blue, pink	20"-15"	May-Oct	Good for drying		X
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	many	assorted	varies	April-Oct	Cutting flower, can overwinter	X	X
Statice	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	'Blue River', 'Forever Gold'	white, lavender, yellow	18"-12"	July-Oct	Good cutting flower or dried		X
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	many	yellow, orange, bronze	varies	July-Sept	Bird seed, cut flower	X	X
Sweet Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	'Carpet of Snow', 'Easter Basket'	white, lavender	4"-6"	May-Oct	Low trailing plant, fragrant		X
Sweet William	<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	many	assorted	12"-12"	June-Sept	Annual or biennial		X
Verbena	<i>Verbena x hybrida</i>	many	blue, white, pink	12"	June-Sept	Best in cool weather, spreading		X
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia angustifolia</i>	'Crystal White', others	white, gold, yellow	12-16"	June-Oct	Hot, dry areas		X
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia elegans</i>	many	assorted	varies	June-Oct	Cut flowers, powdery mildew		X
Herbs Attractive to Butterflies								
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	species type	blue, purple	12"-18"	June-Aug	Many good cultivars, needs dry sites		X
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	species type	pink	12"-12"	May	Perennial, reseeds		X
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	'Elegans'	yellow	36"-24"	July-Sept	Annual, reseeds	X	X
Mint	<i>Mentha</i> spp.	many types	pink, white	24"-24"	May-Sept	Many types		X
Oregano	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	species type	pink, white	24"-24"	July-Sept	Many uses		X
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	varies	greenish	24"-18"	June-Oct	Annual or biennial, several types	X	X
Sweet Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	species type	yellow	48"-18"	July-Sept	Licorice flavored	X	X
Biennials Attractive to Butterflies								
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	species type	lavender	36"-18"	May-June	Naturalizes, somewhat invasive		X
Queen Anne's Lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>	species type	white	72"-48"	June-July	Also known as wild carrot	X	X
Standing Cypress	<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>	species type	red	30"-12"	July-Oct	Fine texture		X
Shrubs Attractive to Butterflies								
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	many	purple, blue, white, pink	48"-48"	July-Oct	Cut to ground in spring		X
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla</i> spp.	many	white, orange, yellow	36"-36"	June-frost	Prune in late winter		X
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	'Shubert'	white	15'-10'	May	Fruit attractive to birds	X	X
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.	many	white, pink	varies	May-June	Attractive fruit		X
Lilac	<i>Syringa</i> spp.	many	white, pink, violet	8'-12'	May	Fragrant, susceptible to scale and borers	X	X
Mockorange	<i>Philadelphus</i> spp.	'Minnesota Snowflake'	white	5/10'-5/10'	May-June	Very fragrant		X
Privet	<i>Ligustrum</i> spp.	many	white	10'-6'	May-June	Often used as a hedge		X
Spirea	<i>Spiraea</i> spp.	many	white, pink	3/8'-10'	May-June	'Vanhoutte' is a popular type		X
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	many	white, pink	varies	May-June	Some fragrant, good fruit		X
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	species type	white	15'-15'	May	Good for eating	X	X