

SITE REQUIREMENTS OF SOME BUTTERFLY NECTAR PLANTS NATIVE TO CONNECTICUT

DRAFT VERSION C.Pyle, USDA Nat. Res. Conservation Serv.								
Common Name	Scientific Name	Light	Moisture	Soils	Color	Month	Height	Misc.
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Su-PSu	D-W	acid soil; mineral or peat	White	5-6	6'-12'	slow grower; occurs in abandoned pastures; birds eat fruits
Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Su	D-W	well drained; acid, mineral	White	4-6	6"=24"	birds eat fruits
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Su	(M-) W	in mineral or organic soils	White	6-8	3'-10'	
Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	Su	D-W	tolerates occasional standing water	White	6-9	2'-5'	often in damp meadows
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Su-PSu	D-M	well drained, poor-average	White	6-8	2'-4'	often found in disturbed soil
Steeplebush	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	S	M-W		Pink	7-9	2'-4'	
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Su-PSu	D	well-drained; coarse sand to heavy clay	yellow-green	6-7	2'-20'	fast grower; persistent red fruits; fruits attract birds
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Su-PSu	D-M	well-drained; coarse sand to heavy clay	yellow-green	6-7	max. 40'	fast grower; weedy; hairy, persistent red fruits; birds eat
Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	PSh-Su	M-W	sand to muck, clays	White	7-8	6'-12'	slow to medium growth
Pinxter-flower	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Su-PSu	D-W	acidic mineral soils; and sandy peat	Pinkish	4-5	2'-7'	best on peat soils
Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Su-PSh	W	acid soil; mineral, peat, or muck	White	6-7	6'-12'	tolerates sand to stiff clay soils
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	Su	M-D		White	5-6	max. 35'	birds eat fruits
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i>	Su	D		White	5	max. 90'	birds eat fruits
Heath Aster	<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i> var. <i>ericoides</i>	Su	D	dry, open sites	White	7-10	1'-3'	
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Su-PSu	M(-W)	well drained; tolerates periodic saturation	Purp+Orng	8-10	4'-6'	fast grower but needs average or better soil
New York Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>	Su-PSu	M		Pu to W	8-10	3'-7'	
Smooth Aster	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Su-PSu	D-Average		Bl or Pu	8-10	1'-3'	
Stiff Aster	<i>Ionactis linariifolius</i>	Su	D		Bl-Pur	9-10	6"-18"	flower center goes f/ yellow to ornge
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> var. <i>fistulosa</i>	Su-PSh	M	usually on limey soil	Pi-Lav	7-8	2'-3'	aromatic leaves
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Su	D-W	tolerates saturation	White	7-9	4'-6'	in wetlands & uplands
Sweet Goldenrod	<i>Solidago odora</i> var. <i>odora</i>	Su	D-M		Yellow	7-10	2'-4'	
Purple Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> var. <i>purpureum</i>		M-W		Pur/Pk	7-9	3'-10'	
Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> var. <i>maculatum</i>	Su-PSu	M-W		Pink	7-9	2'-6'	meadows and wet thickets
Butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ssp. <i>tuberosa</i> or <i>A. tuberosa</i> ssp. <i>interior</i>	Su	very Dry-D		Orange	6-9	1'-2'	
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Su-PSu	D-M		Pink	6-8	2'-5'	spreads readily
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Su-PSu	M-W	poorly drained; tolerates seasonal saturation	Pink	6-8	2'-4'	
Light: Su=Sun (at least 6 hrs of direct, unfiltered light in midsummer [some references settle for 5 hrs]); PSu=Part Sun (2-5 hours direct sun); Light (continued): PSh=Part Shade (2-5 hrs direct sun or all-day dappled sun); Sh=Shade (< 2 hrs direct sun)								
Moisture: D=dry; M=Moist; W=Wet; Month: Months of bloom shown numerically								