

GSWA 2026 Native Plant Program

Plant – Pollinator Interactions

Common Name	Some pollinators, specialists, and larval host species that rely on these plants
Appalachian sedge <i>Carex appalachica</i>	Larval Host Species: various skipper species
bigleaf aster <i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	<p>Bees: long-horned, yellow-faced, sweat, bumble, metallic green sweat, small sweat, mining Other: Syrphid flies</p> <p>Larval Host Species: silvery checkerspot, pearly crescent, aster borer moth, the asteroid, goldenrod hooded owlet Specialist Species: <i>Andrena hirticincta</i>, <i>A. plactata</i>, <i>A. nubecula</i>, <i>Pseudopanurgus andreoides</i>, <i>Melissodes druriellus</i></p>
black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	<p>Bees: little carpenter, leafcutter, metallic green, long-horned, sweat, cuckoo Other: flies (Syrphid, bee, Tachinid)</p> <p>Larval Host Species: wavy-lined emerald, silvery checkerspot, gorgone checkerspot, Specialist Species: <i>Andrena rudbeckia</i>, <i>Heterosaurus rudbeckiae</i>, <i>Pseudopanurgus albitarsis</i>, <i>P. rudbeckiae</i>, <i>Melissodes denticulatus</i>, <i>M. druriellus</i>, <i>M. illatus</i>, <i>Megachile pugnata</i>, <i>M. xylocopoides</i></p>
blue flag iris <i>Iris versicolor</i>	<p>Bees: bumble, digger, green sweat, mason, small carpenter, small sweat, yellow-faced Butterflies: bronze copper, eastern tiger swallowtail, long dash, monarch, silver-banded fritillary, skippers (silver-spotted, Peck's, tawny-edged) Other: Formicidae ants, long-horned beetle, weevil Larval Host Species: Virginia ctenucha</p>
blue grama <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Larval Host Species: various skipper species
broadleaf sedge <i>Carex platyphylla</i>	Larval Host Species: Satyrs, various skippers (eyed-brown, Appalachian brown, black dash, Dion)
butterfly milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	<p>Bees: bumble, cuckoo, digger, large carpenter, leafcutter, long-horned, metallic green sweat, small carpenter, small resin, sweat Butterflies: crescent, great spangled fritillary, monarch, pearl crescent, spicebush swallowtail, sulphurs Wasps: great golden sand digger, paper, thread-waisted, yellow-collared scape Others: Formicidae ants, milkweed leaf beetle, soldier beetle, Tachnid flies Larval Host Species: milkweed tussock moth, monarch</p>
cardinal flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	<p>Bees: bumble, green sweat, small sweat Birds: ruby-throated hummingbird Butterflies: monarch, swallowtails</p>
columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	<p>Bees: bumbles, small sweats Birds: ruby-throated hummingbird Larval Host Species: columbine borer moth, columbine duskywing</p>
common violet <i>Viola sororia</i>	<p>Bees: bumble, cuckoo, metallic green sweat, mining, small carpenter, small sweat Others: bee flies, Formicidae ants Larval Host Species: various fritillaries (including Aphrodite, great spangled, silver-bordered, variegated) Specialist species: <i>Andrena violae</i></p>
coralbelles <i>Heuchera americana</i>	<p>Bees: green sweats, metallic green sweat, small sweats Specialist species: <i>Colletes aestivalis</i></p>
creeping phlox <i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	<p>Bees: bumble Birds: ruby-throated hummingbird</p>
curly wood sedge <i>Carex rosea</i>	Larval Host Species: common wood nymph, mulberry wing, numerous species of skippers, ringlet, Virginia ctenucha

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	<p>Bees: bumbles, green sweats, leafcutters Butterflies: Aphrodite fritillary, clouded sulphur, gray hairstreak, great spangled fritillary, orange sulphur, monarch, painted lady, Peck's skipper, red admiral, tiger swallowtail, wood nymph Others: bee flies, soldier beetles, syrphid flies</p>
<p>dense blazing star <i>Liatrix spicata</i></p>	<p>Larval Host Species: blazing star borer moth, glorious flower moth, three lined flower moth, wavy-lined emerald</p>
	<p>Bees: bumble, sweat, green sweat, cuckoo, long-horned, leaf-cutter, wool carder Butterflies: fritillary, monarch, silver-spotted skipper, swallowtails Moths: hummingbird clearwing moth Wasps: mason, great black Other: beeflies, ruby-throated hummingbird, soldier beetle, long-horned beetle,</p>
<p>eastern beebalm <i>Monarda bradburiana</i></p>	<p>Larval Host Species: hermit sphinx, pyralid moth, gray marvel, Specialist Species: <i>Doufourea monardae</i>, <i>Perdita gerhardi</i></p>
<p>foamflower <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i></p>	<p>Bees: two-spotted bumble Others: greater bee-fly</p>
<p>garden phlox <i>Phlox paniculata</i></p>	<p>Moths: hummingbird, sphinx, Other: ruby-throated hummingbird</p>
<p>geranium <i>Geranium maculatum</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, mason, cuckoo, long-horned, mining, sweat Other: various flies (dance, Syrphid), yellow plant bug, stink bug, ebony bug Specialist Species: <i>Andrena distens</i></p>
	<p>Bees: cuckoo, green sweat, leafcutter, mason, mining, small carpenter, small sweat, sweat, Butterflies: pearl crescent, Zabulon skipper Wasps: potter Others: false blister beetles, fire-colored beetles, flies (dance, hover, leaf miner, Tachinid, thick-headed), tumbling flower beetles Larval Host Species: the gem moth, northern metalmark Specialist Species: mining bees (<i>Andrena spp.</i>)</p>
<p>golden ragwort <i>Packera aurea</i></p>	
	<p>Bees: bumble, digger, large carpenter, leaf cutter, leafcutter, mason, metallic green sweat, small carpenter, small sweat, sweat bee, woolcarder Butterflies: swallowtails (black, giant, pipevine), Zabulon skipper Wasps: mason Others: bee fly Larval Host Species: Baltimore checkerspot Specialist Species: <i>Osmia distincta</i></p>
<p>hairy beardtongue <i>Penstemon hirsutus</i></p>	
	<p>Bees: bumble, leaf-cutting, long-horned, metallic green sweat, mining, small carpenter, small sweat, sweat Butterflies: clouded sulphur, Juvenal's duskywing, sleepy duskywing, Moths: hummingbird clearwing, looper Others: fire-colored beetle, flies (bee, dagger, hover), flower weevil Specialist Species: mining bees (<i>Andrena polemonii</i>)</p>
<p>Jacob's ladder <i>Polemonium reptans</i></p>	
<p>little bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i></p>	<p>Larval Host Species: various skippers (dusted, Indian, crossline, swarthy etc.), common wood-nymph</p>
<p>marsh marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i></p>	<p>Bees: cuckoo, mining Other: bee fly, Formicidae ants, hover fly, two leaf beetle</p>

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<p>mistflower <i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumbles, cuckoo, leafcutter, long-horned, metallic green sweat, small carpenter, small sweat, sweat Butterflies: clouded sulphur, skippers (Dun, Peck's, tawny-edge), monarch, pearl crescent, viceroy Moths: yellow-collared scape moth Wasps: thread-waisted Others: flies (bee, house, hover, Tachnid), goldenrod soldier beetle</p>
<p>New England aster <i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, cellophane, cuckoo, eastern carpenter, green sweat, leafcutter, long-horned, mining, small carpenter, small sweat, sweat, woolcarder, yellow-faced Butterflies: American lady, black swallowtail, cabbage white, clouded sulphur, fiery skipper, monarch, orange sulphur, painted lady, pearl crescent, Peck's skipper, red admiral, Viceroy Moths: looper, white-lined sphinx, yellow-collared scape Wasps: sand Other: flies (bee, blow, house, hover), leaf beetles, soldier beetles Larval Host Species: pearl crescent, Canadian conia moth Specialist Species: mining bees (<i>Andrena spp.</i>), <i>Perdita octomaculata</i>, <i>Megachile inimical</i>, <i>Melissodes spp.</i>, <i>Calliopsis coloradensis</i>, <i>Colletes americanus</i></p>
<p>New York ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, green sweat, leafcutter, long-horned, metallic green Butterflies: eastern tiger swallowtail, painted lady, Peck's skipper Others: soldier beetles, syrphid flies Specialist Species: long-horned bee Larval Host Species: Parthenice tiger moth</p>
<p>pale purple coneflower <i>Echinacea pallida</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, cuckoo, large carpenter, leaf-cutting, metallic green sweat, sweat, long-horned, small sweat Butterflies: painted lady, swallowtail, sulfurs, monarch, fritillaries Larval Host Species: silvery checkerspot, wavy-lined emerald, common eupithecia</p>
<p>plantainleaf pussytoes <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, cuckoo, green sweat, leaf-cutter, mining, small carpenter, small sweat, sweat Butterflies: American lady, clouded sulphur, Juvenal's skipper, sleepy duskywing Moths: looper Wasps: cuckoo Other: false blister beetles, flies (blow, dance, frit, house, hover), jewel beetles Larval Host Plant: American lady</p>
<p>quinine <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i></p>	<p>Bees: sweat, mining, small carpenter, yellow-faced, cuckoo Wasps: cuckoo Other: soldier flies, Syrphid flies, Tachind flies</p>
<p>rose mallow <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, eastern carpenter, green sweat, little sweat, long-horned Birds: ruby-throated hummingbird Butterflies: silver-spotted skipper, Wasps: digger, potter Specialist Species: rose-mallow bee Larval Host Species: common checkered skipper, painted lady, gray hairstreak, lo moth, pearly wood nymph</p>

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<p>scarlet beebalm <i>Monarda didyma</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumbles, cuckoos, green sweats, leafcutter, long-horned, small resin, wool carder Birds: ruby-throated hummingbird Butterflies: monarch, silver spotted skipper, swallowtails (spicebush, tiger) Moths: clearwing hummingbird, snout Wasps: great black wasp, mason Others: banded-long horn beetle, bee flies, soldier beetles</p> <p>Specialist Species: black sweat bee Larval Host Species: hermit sphinx mot, orange mint moth, raspberry pyrausta</p>
<p>seaside goldenrod <i>Solidago sempervirens</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, green sweat, leafcutter, long-horned, small carpenter, sweat, yellow-faced, Butterflies: crescent, monarch Moths: scapes Wasps: grass-carrying, mason, paper, potter, great golden digger, square-headed, thread-wasted, yellowjacket Others: bee flies, greenbottle flies, goldenrod soldier beetle, locust borer beetle, syrphid flies, tachinid flies</p> <p>Specialist Species: mining bees Larval Host Species: brown-hooded owlet, dart moth, goldenrod gall fly</p>
<p>stonecrop <i>Sedum ternatum</i></p>	<p>Bees: mining Butterflies: buckeye, variegated fritillary Other: Syrphid fly</p>
<p>striped violet <i>Viola striata</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, long-horned, mason, mining Other: giant bee fly Larval Host Species: various fritillary species Specialist Species: <i>Andrena violae</i></p>
<p>swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, cuckoo, digger, green sweat, large carpenter, leaf-cutter, metallic green sweat, mining, small sweat, small resin, small sweat, yellow-faced, Wasps: great black, great golden digger, paper, square-headed, thread-waisted, Tiphiid, Vespid, yellowjacket Others: beetles (long-horned, milkweed leaf, red milkweed, soldier), flies (bee, green bottle, hover, Tachinid) Larval Host Species: monarch, milkweed tussock moth</p>
<p>Virginia bluebells <i>Mertensia virginica</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, mason Moths: Sphinx, hummingbird Other: giant beefly</p>
<p>Virginia mountain mint <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i></p>	<p>Bees: cuckoo, yellow-faced, metallic green sweat, long-horned, small resin, bumble Butterflies: pearl crescent Wasps: Sphecid, Eumenine Other: wedge-shaped beetle, various flies (Tachinid, bee)</p> <p>Larval Host Species: Specialist Species:</p>
<p>whorled milkweed <i>Asclepias verticillata</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, small resin, sweat, yellow-faced Butterflies: banded hairstreak, great spangled fritillary, monarch, skippers</p> <p>Larval Host Species: monarch, queen, milkweed tussock moth</p>

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<p>wild strawberry <i>Fragaria virginiana</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, cuckoo, green sweat, leaf-cutting, little sweat, long-horned, mason, metallic green sweat, mining, small carpenter, sweat, yellow-faced Butterflies: cabbage white, clouded sulphur, eastern tailed-blue, Juvenal's skipper, pearl crescent, roadside skipper Moths: looper Wasps: paper, thread-waisted Other: flies (bee, blow, dance, hover, soldier, thick-headed), Formicidae ants, jewel beetle, weevils Larval Host Species: gray hairstreak</p>
<p>woodland phlox <i>Phlox divaricata</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumbles, cellophane, long-horned, mason, metallic green sweat Butterflies: cabbage white, clouded sulphur, monarch, skippers (dreamy duskywing, silver-spotted, tawny-edge, Zabulon), swallowtails (black, eastern tiger, giant, pipevine, spicebush, zebra) Moths: clearwing, looper, twin-spotted sphinx, white-lined sphinx</p>
<p>zigzag goldenrod <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i></p>	<p>Bees: bumble, cuckoo, large carpenter, leaf-cutter, long-horned, metallic green sweat, mining, small carpenter, small sweat, sweat, woolcarder, yellow-faced Larval Host Species: bilobed dichomeris (<i>Dichomeris bilobella</i>), brown hooded owlet (<i>Cucullia convexipennis</i>), twirler moth (<i>Gnorimoschema gallaeasterella</i>), Specialist Species: <i>Colletes spp</i>, mining bees (<i>Andrena hirticincta</i>, <i>A. placata</i>, <i>A. simplex</i>)</p>

Sources: BAMONA <https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>, Butterflies through Binoculars by Jeffery Glassberg, Cornell Botanic Garden <https://cornellbotanicgardens.org/>, Illinois Wildflower <https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/>, Missouri Botanical Gardens <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>, North Carolina Extension Gardener <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>, Penn State Extension Garden <https://extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping/home-gardening>, Peterson First Guides: Caterpillars by Amy Bartlett Wright, Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather Holm, USDA Plant Database <https://plants.usda.gov/home>, XERCES <https://xerces.org/>