

20 Most Valuable Woody and Perennials Native Plant Genera in Terms of Supporting Biodiversity in the Mid-Atlantic Region

Woody Plants		
Plant Genus	Common Name	# of Lepidoptera* species supported
<i>Quercus</i>	oak	557
<i>Prunus</i>	black cherry	456
<i>Salix</i>	willow	455
<i>Betula</i>	birch	413
<i>Populus</i>	poplar	368
<i>Malus</i>	crabapple	311
<i>Acer</i>	maple	297
<i>Vaccinium</i>	blueberry	288
<i>Alnus</i>	alder	255
<i>Carya</i>	hickory	235
<i>Ulmus</i>	elm	215
<i>Pinus</i>	pine	203
<i>Crataegus</i>	hawthorn	168
<i>Picea</i>	spruce	156
<i>Tilia</i>	basswood	150
<i>Fraxinus</i>	ash	150
<i>Rosa</i>	rose	139
<i>Corylus</i>	filbert	131
<i>Juglans</i>	walnut	130
<i>Fagus</i>	beech	127
<i>Castanea</i>	chestnut	127

Perennials**		
Plant Genus	Common Name	# of Lepidoptera* species supported
<i>Solidago</i>	goldenrod	104
<i>Fragaria</i>	strawberry	67
<i>Helianthus</i>	sunflower	56
<i>Eupatorium</i>	joe pye, boneset	31
<i>Viola</i>	violet	28
<i>Panicum</i>	switchgrass	25
<i>Geranium</i>	geranium	25
<i>Hibiscus</i>	rosemallow	25
<i>Lupinus</i>	lupine	24
<i>Siam</i>	water parsnip	21
<i>Erigeron</i>	fleabane	19
<i>Baptisia</i>	Wild indigo	19
<i>Vernonia</i>	ironweed	19
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	blackeyed susan	18
<i>Verbesina</i>	wingstem	15
<i>Oenothera</i>	evening primrose	15
<i>Thalictrum</i>	meadow rue	15
<i>Andropogon</i>	bluestem	14
<i>Apocynum</i>	dogbane	14
<i>Asclepias</i>	milkweed	12
<i>Aquilegia</i>	columbine	11

Recommended reading:

Tallamy, D. 2007. *Bringing Nature Home*. Timber Press.

* Lepidoptera refers to the order of insects comprised of butterflies, moths and skippers. Numbers represent species whose caterpillar feeds on the given plant.

**Source: <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/>