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

## Woody Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Genus</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th># of Lepidoptera* species supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quercus</td>
<td>oak</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus</td>
<td>black cherry</td>
<td>456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix</td>
<td>willow</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betula</td>
<td>birch</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus</td>
<td>poplar</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malus</td>
<td>crabapple</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinium</td>
<td>blueberry</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer</td>
<td>maple</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulmus</td>
<td>elm</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus</td>
<td>pine</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carya</td>
<td>hickory</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus</td>
<td>hawthorn</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picea</td>
<td>spruce</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alnus</td>
<td>alder</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilia</td>
<td>basswood</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus</td>
<td>ash</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa</td>
<td>rose</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus</td>
<td>filbert</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juglans</td>
<td>walnut</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagus</td>
<td>beech</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castanea</td>
<td>chestnut</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Perennials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Genus</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th># of Lepidoptera* species supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solidago</td>
<td>goldenrod</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster</td>
<td>asters</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus</td>
<td>sunflower</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eupatorium</td>
<td>joe pye, boneset</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipomoea</td>
<td>morning glory</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex</td>
<td>sedges</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera</td>
<td>honeysuckle</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupinus</td>
<td>lupine</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viola</td>
<td>violets</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geranium</td>
<td>geraniums</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudbeckia</td>
<td>black-eyed Susan</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>iris</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oenothera</td>
<td>evening primrose</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asclepias</td>
<td>milkweed</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbena</td>
<td>verbena</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon</td>
<td>beardtongue</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlox</td>
<td>phlox</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarda</td>
<td>bee balm</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica</td>
<td>veronica</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizachyrium</td>
<td>little bluestem</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobelia</td>
<td>cardinal flower</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Recommended reading:**


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This list is available on the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens website @ http://ag.udel.edu/udbg/gardens/native.html