

20 Most Valuable Woody and Perennial 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	534
<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>Vaccinium</i>	blueberry	288
<i>Acer</i>	maple	285
<i>Ulmus</i>	elm	213
<i>Pinus</i>	pine	203
<i>Carya</i>	hickory	200
<i>Crataegus</i>	hawthorn	159
<i>Picea</i>	spruce	156
<i>Alnus</i>	alder	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	126
<i>Castanea</i>	chestnut	125

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

Recommended reading:

Tallamy, D. 2007. *Bringing Nature Home*. Timber Press.
 Louv, R. 2005. *Last Child in the Woods*. Algonquin Books.
 Wilcove, D. 2008. *No Way Home*. Island Press.

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