Butterflies and moths (*lepidoptera*) need more than nectar to survive—they need to munch on **native host plants** as young caterpillars as part of their complete life cycle.

Add beauty, shade and privacy to your yard by planting these top native host trees. Butterflies (and baby birds, who eat caterpillars to survive) will thank you!

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Top wildlife tree and "Number 1" host plant supports 534 species of *lepidoptera*. A handsome, adaptable tree with beautiful fall color. Bonus: Oaks fight climate change—a mature tree can absorb and store as much as a ton of CO_2!

River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

Host for 413 species, including Tiger Swallowtail butterflies *(below)*. Large trees reach 40-50' at maturity, but dwarf cultivar 'Little King' grows to only 15'.

Crabapples (*Malus spp*)

According to Douglas Tallamy, this is one case where caterpillars can't tell the difference between non-native and native trees, so the beautiful and adaptable Asian cultivars will support 311 species of *lepidoptera*. Crabapples provide an important early forage source for native bees as well as late-winter fruit for birds.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Ornamental tree with brilliant fall foliage; supports 285 *lepidoptera* species, includingthe beautiful Cecropia moth. Important early nectar source for native bees.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp*)

Supports 124 *lepidoptera* species. Small tree with beautiful early white flowers which supply nectar for emerging native bees. Edible fruits attract 35 species of birds, including colorful cedar waxwings. Lovely fall color.

American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Supports 118 *lepidoptera* species, including the lovely SpringAzure butterfly *(left)*. Early spring flowers are important for emerging native bees; high-fat berries important food source for migrating birds.