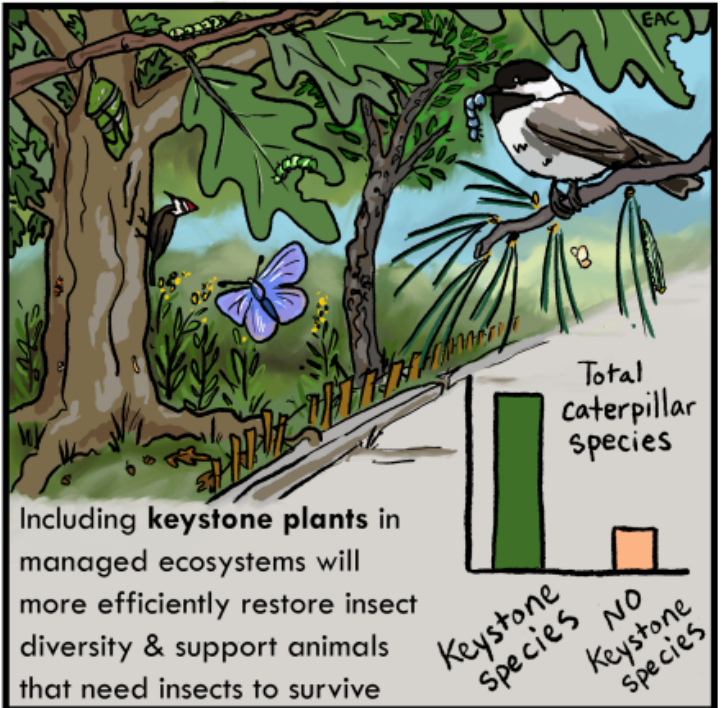
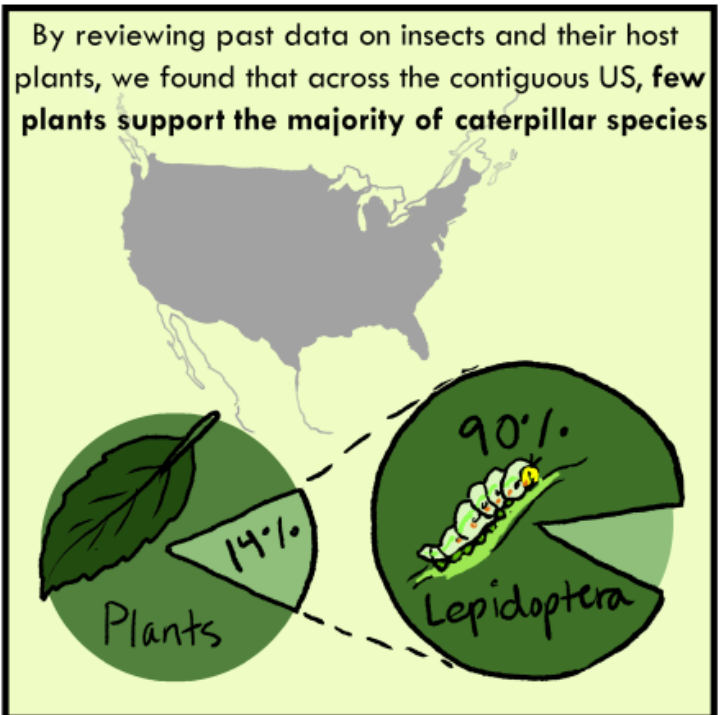
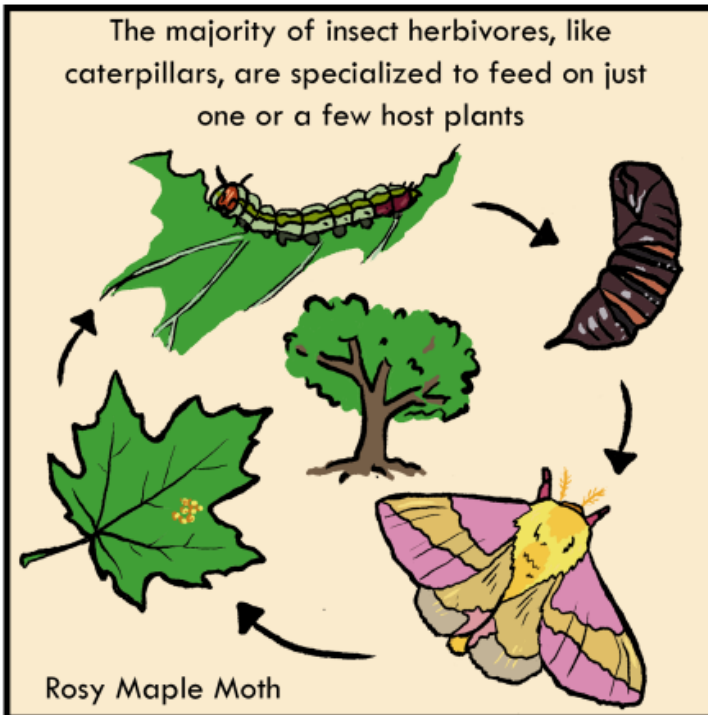


# WHAT ARE KEYSTONE PLANTS?

**Keystone plants** are native plants that support a significant number of caterpillars (butterfly and moth larvae). Planting keystone plants helps build complex food webs by forming the essential foundation — native plants and insects — that provide food for other organisms, directly and indirectly.



Narango, D.L., Tallamy, D.W. and Shropshire, K. J. 2020. Few keystone plant genera support the majority of Lepidoptera diversity. Nature Communications  
 Access the paper here: <https://rdcu.be/caKj5>



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Art: Elsa Cousins

# SOFT LANDINGS

**Soft landings** are diverse native plantings under keystone trees (or any other regionally appropriate native tree). These plantings provide critical shelter and habitat for one or more life cycle stages of moths, butterflies, and beneficial insects such as bumble bees, fireflies, lacewings, and beetles. In addition to plants, *soft landings* also include leaf litter, duff, and plant debris.

