

BUTTERFLY GARDENING FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

While it is possible to attract many butterflies to your yard by planting nectar sources for them, the most important thing you can do to increase local butterfly populations is to plant the plants for their caterpillars (larva) to eat. Yes, this means certain plants will no longer have perfect leaves but imperfection is all a part of Nature. You will have the satisfaction of doing something that ensures future generations of butterflies for you and others to enjoy. With both nectar and larval plants in your yard, butterflies will repay you for your efforts by bringing all their friends to feast at your buffet and make themselves at home in your garden, which in turn means you will plant more plants for them to nectar on and more plants for their caterpillars, etc. This means you must never spray pesticides on your plants again. It's not nice to invite someone for dinner and then give their food a shot of poison. With very little effort you can entice the butterflies listed below into your garden to raise their families and to bring great joy into your life. Put out the welcome mat!



LARVAL FOOD PLANTS	BUTTERFLIES
MILKWEED, both native and non-native (<i>Asclepias</i> species)	Monarch
<i>Conoclinium</i> & <i>Morrenia</i> are vines in the milkweed family	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
	Queen
	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>
SENNA species, both native and non-native, partridge pea, legumes	Cloudless Sulphur
<i>Senna</i> was formerly <i>Cassia</i>	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>
	Orange-barred Sulphur
	<i>Phoebis philea</i>
	Little Yellow
	<i>Eurema lisa</i>
PLUMBAGO, milk pea, lima bean, <i>Crotalaria</i> species, partridge pea	Cassius Blue
Cassius Blue uses plumbago	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>
Ceraunus Blue uses <i>Centrosema virginianum</i> & <i>Galactia regularis</i>	Ceraunus Blue
	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>
Long-tailed Skipper uses many pea family vines & garden beans	Long-tailed Skipper
	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>
PASSION VINE, both native and non-native (<i>Passiflora</i> species)	Gulf Fritillary
Gulf Frits prefer plants in sun	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>



Polk County Master Gardeners
 For additional gardening information
 Call - (863) 519-8677 Ext. 118
<http://polkmastergardener.ifas.ufl.edu>

LARVAL FOOD PLANTS	BUTTERFLIES
Zebra prefers plants in shade	Zebra Heliconian
Neither uses red passion vines	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>
PIPEVINE, both native and non-native (<i>Aristolochia</i> species)	Pipevine Swallowtail
Pipevine Sw. prefers native - <i>A. serpentaria</i> or <i>A. tomentosa</i>	<i>Battus philenor</i>
Polydamas Sw. prefers non-native <i>Aristolochias</i>	Polydamas Swallowtail
	<i>Battus polydamas</i>
CARROT family inc. parsley, dill, fennel; <i>Eryngium</i> species also	Black Swallowtail
	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>
CUDWEED (<i>Gnaphalium</i> species)	American Lady
	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>
NETTLES (<i>Urtica</i> species), False Nettle (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>)	Red Admiral
and Pellitory (<i>Parietaria</i> species)	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
PLANTAIN (<i>Plantago</i> species), False Foxglove (<i>Agalinus</i> species)	Common Buckeye
Wild Petunia (<i>Ruellia</i> species)	<i>Junonia coenia</i>
CITRUS trees; Hercules' Club (<i>Zanthoxylum clava-hercules</i>)	Giant Swallowtail
	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>
FROGFRUIT (<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>) also called Capeweed, Match Plant	Phaon Crescent
	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>
CANNA species, both native and non-native	Brazilian Skipper
Revised January 2004	<i>Calpodas ethlius</i>



NECTAR PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are not appreciative of what we consider aesthetic plantings in our gardens. They don't mind that every plant is not perfect or perfectly placed. What we consider weedy fields, many butterflies consider a gourmet buffet. Butterfly needs are simple. They prefer simple flowers and those that grow in clusters. Many with no fragrance to us are quite attractive to them. Butterflies are solar powered – plant in the sun as much as possible. Provide them with nectar plants and larval plants and you are on your way to increasing the butterfly population. We urge you to use as many Florida native plants as possible and stagger the blooming times so your garden is used year-round. Native plants are suited to their environment and require less water. In central Florida we are at the

northernmost limit of many tropical species and the southernmost limit of many temperate species. Experiment with plants and find what works best for you and your butterflies. We urge you not to purchase butterflies. Remember, butterflies are already free.

SHRUBS		
Garberia (<i>Garberia fruticosa</i>)	native	lavender cluster
Firebush (<i>Hamelia patens</i>)	native	orange tubular
Porterweed (<i>Stachytarpheta</i> species)	both native and non-native	various colors
<i>Lantana</i> species	both native and non-native	various colors in clusters
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleia</i> species)	non-native	various colors in spikes
Golden Dewdrops (<i>Duranta repens</i>)	non-native	blue or white
Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium</i> species)	several native species	white urn-shaped clusters
Coralbean (<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>)	native	red tubular
Pentas (<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>)	non-native	various colors in clusters
TREES		
Sparkleberry (<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>)	native	white
Citrus family	both native and non-native	white
Chickasaw and Hog Plum (<i>Prunus</i> species)	native	white clusters
VINES		
Coral Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)	native	red tubular
Trumpet Vine (<i>Campsis radicans</i>)	native	orange tubular
Climbing Aster (<i>Aster carolinianus</i>)	native	lavender ray florets
Scarlet Morning-glory (<i>Ipomoea hederifolia</i>)	native	red tubular
ANNUALS and PERENNIALS		
Thistle (<i>Cirsium</i> species)	native and non-native	various colors
Milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> species)	native and non-native	various colors



SHRUBS		
Blazing Star (<i>Liatris</i> species)	native	purple spikes
<i>Carphephorus</i> species	native	purple disk florets
<i>Verbena</i> species	native and non-native	various colors
Spanish Needles (<i>Bidens alba</i>)	native	white ray florets
Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)	non-native	purple ray florets
Scarlet Sage (<i>Salvia coccinea</i>)	native	red tubular
Snow Squarestem (<i>Melanthera nivea</i>)	native	white tubular
Wild Petunia (<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>)	native	lavender tubular
Ironweed (<i>Vernonia</i> species)	native	purple florets
Shrub Sunflower (<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i>)	non-native	orange ray florets
Prepared by		revised Sept. 2003
Byrum W. (Buck) and Linda F. Cooper		
558 Sunshine Blvd., Haines City, FL 33844	(863) 439-2704	

