



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 tel. 973-285-0907 fax 973-285-0936

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SANTA BARBARA FOOTHILLS, CA

by Sandy Russell

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

An asterisk in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant. Numbers in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.); letters correspond to season (W = winter, S = spring, X = summer, F = fall). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
* N Deerweed <i>Lotus scoparius</i>	1-3'	yellow	1-12	Whites, Hairstreaks, Blues, Painted Lady, Skippers	Drought tolerant.
A Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue' <i>Scabiosa</i>	8"	blue	1-12	Cabbage White	Drought tolerant.
A Statice <i>Limonium</i>	2'	white, purple	1-12	Skippers	Annual
* N Sticky monkeyflower <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	3-6'	apricot, red	1-7	Sara Orangetip, Checkerspots	Partial shade ideal; needs well-drained soil; browns out during summer.
* A Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	1-3'	purple	W-S	Hairstreaks, Blues, Checkerspots, Skippers	Needs well-drained soil; tolerates sun and drought.
* N Hummingbird or pitcher sage <i>Salvia spathacea</i>	1-3'	pink to crimson	3-5	Swallowtails	Partial shade best.
A Bougainvillea <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>		red	S-X	California Dogface	Drought tolerant.
* N Crimson columbine <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	1-4'	red	4-8	Swallowtails, Fritillaries	Needs water, full to filtered sun.
* A Chinese hibiscus <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	2-6'	white, pink, yellow, red	4-9	Western Tiger Swallowtail, Cloudless Sulphur, Hairstreaks, Blues, Gulf Fritillary	Tender to freezes; needs rich well-drained soil and regular watering; confine to large pots or will spread
A Brazilian milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	3'	red & orange	S-X	Checkerspots, Monarch	Easy to grow; drought tolerant.
A Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>		purple, white	S-F	Swallowtails	
* A Scarlet monkeyflower <i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	2-4'	red	4-10	Cabbage & Checkered Whites, Checkerspots, Painted Lady, Ringlets	Needs partial shade and regular water

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
* N California buckwheat <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	2½'	white-pink	4-11	Swallowtails, Hairstreaks, Blues, Checkerspots, Painted Lady, Common Buckeye, Skippers	Needs full sun and well drained soil; drought tolerant once established.
* N Purple sage <i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	3-5'	pink to lavender	5-7		Very fragrant. Best in open, sunny, dry conditions.
* N California fuchsia <i>Epilobium californica</i>	1'	scarlet	X	Swallowtails	Takes full sun and little water in well-drained soil once established; self-seeds.
* A Impatiens <i>Impatiens</i>	varies	various	X		Widely available bedding plants; protect from wind and frost.
* Passion vine <i>Passiflora manicata, jamesonii</i>	vine	red	X	Cabbage White, Gulf Fritillary, Painted Lady	Needs full sun, average water, protection from frost and wind. Prune dead stems.

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

FLOWER	COMMENTS
Thistles	

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

An asterisk in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant. Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
A Brazilian milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	3'	Monarch	Easy to grow; drought tolerant.
* N California buckwheat <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	2½'	Blues, Mormon Metalmark	Needs full sun and well drained soil; drought tolerant once established.

SANTA BARBARA FOOTHILLS

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N <i>Ceanothus</i> <i>Ceanothus</i>		Hedgerow Hairstreak	No watering needed once established.
* A Chinese hibiscus <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	2-6'	Gray Hairstreak, Common Checkered-Skipper	Tender to freezes; needs rich well-drained soil and regular watering; confine to large pots or will spread summer.
* N Deerweed <i>Lotus scoparius</i>	1-3'	Orange Sulphur, Bramble Hairstreak, Marine & Silvery Blues, Silver-spotted Skipper, Funereal Duskywing	Drought tolerant.
A Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	6-8'	Anise Swallowtail	Fennel becomes invasive near the coast.
* A Impatiens <i>Impatiens</i>	varies	Painted Lady	Widely available bedding plants; protect from wind and frost.
N Live oaks <i>Quercus chrysolepis, wizlizenii, agrifolia</i>	50-80'	California Sister	
A Nasturtium <i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	1'	Cabbage White	
* Passion vine <i>Passiflora manicata, jamesonii</i>	vine	Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary	Needs full sun, average protection from frost and wind. Prune dead stems.
* N Sticky monkeyflower <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	3-6'	Variable Checkerspot, Common Buckeye	Partial shade ideal; needs well-drained soil; browns out during summer.

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

A number in front of a butterfly name indicates a particularly likely species (1 = most expected to be seen). Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.); letters correspond to season (W = winter, S = spring, X = summer, F = fall).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
1 Anise Swallowtail <i>Papilio zelicaon</i>	1-12	1-12	Fennel	
Western Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio rutulus</i>	2-10	2-10	Sycamore, willow, alder	
Checkered White <i>Pontia protodice</i>	long season		Mustard family	
Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	1-12	1-12	Mustard family, nasturtium	

SANTA BARBARA FOOTHILLS

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Sara Orangetip <i>Anthocharis sara</i>	S	S	A few mustards	
California Dogface <i>Colias eurydice</i>	4-5, 8-9			
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	3-10	3-10		
Sleepy Orange <i>Eurema nicippe</i>	long season			
Hedgerow Hairstreak <i>Satyrium saepium</i>	4-6		Ceanothus	
Bramble Hairstreak <i>Callophrys dumetorum</i>	S		Deerweed	
Brown Elfin <i>Callophrys augustinus</i>	S			
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	2-11	2-11	Hibiscus	
Marine Blue <i>Leptotes marina</i>	3-10	3-10	Deerweed	
Silvery Blue <i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>				
Mormon Metalmark <i>Apodemia mormo</i>	3-9		Buckwheats	
Variable Checkerspot <i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i>	S-X		Monkeyflower	
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	1-12	1-12	Willow	
3 Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	S-F	S-F	Thistles, composites, mallows, others	
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	3-11	3-11	Nettles, hops	
Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	long season		Monkeyflower	
California Sister <i>Adelpha bredowii</i>	3-9		Oaks	
2 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	1-12	1-12	Milkweeds	
Funereal Duskywing <i>Erynnis funeralis</i>	2-10	2-10	Deerweed	
Common Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus communis</i>	3-11	3-11	Hibiscus	
Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	1-12	1-12	Grasses	

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.); letters correspond to season (W = winter, S = spring, X = summer, F = fall).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>			Citrus	
Pale Swallowtail <i>Papilio eurymedon</i>	2-10	2-10	Native buckthorn, ceanothus	

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LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Fatal Metalmark <i>Calephelis nemesis</i>	2-10	long season	Bush sunflower	
Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	X	X	Passion vine	
Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	3-11	3-11	Milkweeds	
Northern White-Skipper <i>Heliopetes ericetorum</i>	4-10	4-10	Bush mallow	

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 10

The butterflies you attract reflect your choices in planting, between nursery and native flowers. Visit a landscape nursery and you will observe the more common, wide-ranging, and multi-plant-feeding species of butterflies, such as Cabbage White, Painted Lady, and Fiery Skipper. If you hike through a natural area, you may encounter native blues, fritillaries, checkerspots, and the migratory Monarch. Seeking out the cultivated versions of native plants to balance the commoner nursery plants in your yard will not only increase the number of species attracted to your nectar sources, but may also serve to provide food for the caterpillars.

Many California native plants are more drought- and sun-tolerant than tropical exotics, so one key to mixing the two is to plant those species with similar growing requirements together, and provide water and shade accordingly. Some native flowers bloom early in the year and then "shut down" for the summer, with browned leaves and no flowers. Take into consideration the local blooming seasons of your natives, and fill in with longer-blooming nursery plants, such as impatiens. Native plants may also appear more rangy than neat bedding plants. If your garden space is small, or your choice of plants limited, add in potted to extend the season of bloom and attractiveness in your garden.

Caterpillar food plants, it should be noted, will be eaten, so they should be planted in less noticeable areas where holes in leaves will not be obvious. Passion vines are susceptible to colonization by ants; grow the vine in a pot and keep water in the saucer underneath to keep ants off the vine, to keep ants from attacking Gulf Fritillary caterpillars.