



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA (Bradenton area)

by Marguerite Klem

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

A number in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Numbers in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Verbenas <i>Verbena</i>	6-12"	pink, lavendar	3-11	Gulf Fritillary Skippers	
N	Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	1-3'	pink	6-10	many	deadhead (remove dead flowers)
A	Mexican sunflower <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	6'	orange	6-11	many	stake stems
N	Seaside goldenrod <i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	2-8'	yellow	8-10	Monarch	maintains itself
N	Climbing aster <i>Aster caroliniensis</i>	6-7'	pale purple	8-11	Gulf Fritillary Skippers	needs pruning; attracts more bees
	False heather <i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	6-12"	lavendar	12-6	Gulf Fritillary	requires sun
N	Blue porterweed <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	3-5'	blue	all	Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Skippers	
A	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	6'	pink,purple	all	Giant Swallowtail Zebra, Gulf Fritillary Red Admiral, White Peacock Monarch, Zebra Longtail Skippers	deadhead (remove dead flowers); needs water
N	Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	1-3'	orange	all	Monarch Queen	major nectar & caterpillar plant
A	Golden dewdrop <i>Duranta repens</i>	to 18'	lavendar	all	Zebra, Giant Swallowtail Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Sulphurs, Zebra Gulf Fritillary, Red Admiral Monarch	easy to grow; important nectar source
	Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus denudatus</i>	10-12'	red	all	Gulf Fritillary	requires sun

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(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
	Lantana <i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	2-3'	lavendar	all	American Snout, Zebra Gulf Fritillary, Red Admiral White Peacock, Monarch Skippers	grows out from center; prune but always leave some in bloom
A	Malay ixora <i>Ixora coccinea</i>	3-4'	red	all	Gulf Fritillary Monarch	requires sun
	Pentas <i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	3-5'	red,cerise lavendar	all	Giant Swallowtail, Sulphurs Zebra, Gulf Fritillary Red Admiral, White Peacock Monarch, Skippers	may be grown as a hedge or in clumps; may need replanting every few years
N	Spanish needles <i>Bidens alba</i>	3-4'	white	all	Miami Blue, Zebra Gulf Fritillary, Skippers	
A	Stokes aster <i>Stokesia laevis</i>	12-18"	purple,blue	all	Zebra Gulf Fritillary	deadhead (remove dead flowers)

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

FLOWER	COMMENTS
N Black-eyed Susans <i>Rudbeckia</i>	no butterflies attracted
Black foot <i>Melampodium</i>	
Blue sage <i>Eranthemum pulchellum</i>	pretty cerulean blue but butterflies not attracted
Dwarf pink pentas <i>Pentas</i>	see "NECTAR FLOWERS" for regular pentas
N Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	variable; no butterflies attracted in some gardens; but attractive to butterflies in other gardens
Fire spike <i>Odontonema strictum</i>	no butterflies attracted
Gold lantana <i>Lantana ouatifolia</i>	
N Indian blanket <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	no butterflies attracted
Mexican sage <i>Salvia leucantha</i>	
N Partridge pea <i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	skippers at flowers but no caterpillars on plants
N Ruellia <i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	no butterflies attracted
N Scarlet sage <i>Salvia coccinea</i>	no butterflies attracted
Van Hout's sage <i>Salvia vanhoutii</i>	

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA (Bradenton area)

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

Numbers indicate a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N 3	Butterfly pea <i>Clitoria mariana</i>	vine	Silver-spotted Skipper Long-tailed Skipper	grow in sun or semi-shade
N 6	Cassias <i>Cassia</i>	5-20'	Cloudless Sulphur Orange-barred Sulphur	fast growing; weak stemmed (stake)
A	Dill <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	3-4'	Eastern Black Swallowtail	grow near nectar source such as purple lantana
A	Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	3'	Eastern Black Swallowtail	keep moist
A	Grapefruit, lemon <i>Citrus maxima, limon</i>	10-30'	Giant Swallowtail	remember: do not spray
A 4	Mexican milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	1-3'	Monarch	both caterpillar & nectar source
N 1	Passion vine <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	vine	Zebra Gulf Fritillary	plant throughout the year
N	Passion vine <i>Passiflora morifolia</i>	vine	Julia Gulf Fritillary	
N 2	Pipevines <i>Aristolochia</i>	vine	Polydamas Swallowtail	grow in semi-shade
N	Ruellias <i>Ruellia (nudiflora, occidentalis)</i>	1'	White Peacock	grow in sun or half sun
N 5	White-flowered milkweed <i>Asclepias perennis</i>	2'	Monarch	

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.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

	NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
3	Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	1-12	1-12	pipevines	
3	Polydamas Swallowtail <i>Battus polydamas</i>	1-12	1-12	pipevines	

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COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
2 Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	1-12	1-12	parsley family (dill)	
1 Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	1-12	1-12	citruses	
2 Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Papilio troilus</i>	3-12	3-12	spicebush, camphor tree, sweet bay, prickly ash	
Great Southern White <i>Ascia monuste</i>	1-12	1-12	mustard (cabbage) family; nasturtium	
2 Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	1-12	1-12	cassias	
1 Orange-barred Sulphur <i>Phoebis philea</i>	1-12	1-12	cassias	
Miami Blue <i>Hemiargus thomasi</i>	1-12	1-12	balloon vines	
1 Zebra <i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	1-12	1-12	passion vines	
1 Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	1-12	1-12	passion vines (but red kind not accepted)	
Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	1-12	1-12	asters	
1 Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	4-10	4-9	nettles, false nettles	
3 Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	1-12	2-11	snapdragons, plantain, ruellias, verbenas	
3 White Peacock <i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	1-12	2-11	ruellias	
1 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	1-12	1-12	milkweeds	breeds year-round, fewer in summer
3 Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	1-12	1-12	milkweeds, milkvines	
Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	1-12	1-12	Butterfly pea, beggar's-ticks	
Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	1-12	2-11	Butterfly pea and other legumes	
Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	1-12	1-12	Bermuda grass	

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA (Bradenton area)

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

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NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
none to list.				

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 10

The soil is sandy; gardens can be enriched with potting soil and mulch. The summer heat and high humidity is continuous from July through September, with afternoon showers in summer.

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