



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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SOUTHEAST FLORIDA (JENSEN BEACH AREA)

by James Shearer

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	Cape honeysuckle <i>Lonicera</i>	5-6'	yellow or red	1-12	Some	grows fast; can be invasive; easy to find and grow; attracts bees, hummingbirds
N	Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	6-8'	red	1-12	many	likes some shade
A 3	Ixora <i>Ixora coccinea</i>	6-8'	red	1-12	Many	great hedge plant; widely available
1	Jatropha <i>Jatropha</i>	6-8'	red	1-12	Many	cheap; available; easy to grow
A 3	Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	1'	yellow	1-12	Many	also good in hanging baskets
N 2	Pentas <i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	3-4'	various	1-12	Many	
3	Periwinkle	1'	various	1-12	Many	self seeds; needs no care
A 3	Plumbago <i>Plumbago</i>	4-5'	blue	1-12	Cassius Blue	can get leggy if not trimmed regularly
N 2	Porterweed <i>Stachytarpheta</i>	6-8'	pink, purple	1-12	Many	pink flowers attract hummingbirds
N/A	Salvia (sage) <i>Salvia</i>	3-4'	blue, purple, white/pink	1-12	Some	aggressive (self seeds or spreads by roots); more popular with bees
N/A	Verbena <i>Verbena</i>	creeping	red, yellow lavender	1-12	Many	
N	Wild coffee <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	5-8'	white	4-10	Many	shade lover; tiny flowers
A	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia</i>	4-5'	white	5-10	Many	very fragrant

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NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
N Golden dewdrop (<i>Duranta repens</i>)	A small tree or large shrub that is evergreen, it has pretty white flowers and golden berries, but I've never seen a butterfly on it.

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

A number in front of a plant name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N 1 Cassia or senna <i>Cassia bicapsularis, didymobotrya</i>	3-8'	Orange-barred Sulphur	hard to find but easy to grow; typical yellow flowers
A 3 Dill & fennel (to 5'), parsley (to 6") members of Parsley Family		Black Swallowtail	hard to get these plants through our hot summer
N 1 Dutchman's pipe <i>Aristolochia</i>	vine	Pipevine Swallowtail Polydamas Swallowtail	hard to find but easy to grow; 'Calico Flower', 'Giant Pipevine'
N 2 Passion flower <i>Passiflora incarnata, suberosa, incense</i>	vine	Zebra, Gulf Fritillary	garden store hybrids do not work for butterflies
A 3 Scarlet milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	3-4'	Monarch, Queen	easy to grow; self seeds; does not transplant well from pots to garden-best not to disturb roots

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.).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
1 Polydamas Swallowtail <i>Battus polydamas</i>	3-11	3-11	Dutchman's pipe
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	5-11	spring to early fall	fennel (#1 choice), dill, parsley
1 Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	1-12	1-12	citrus trees, wild lime
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	1-12	1-12	cassia

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COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
1 Orange-barred Sulphur <i>Phoebis philea</i>	1-12	1-12	cassia
Large Orange Sulphur <i>Phoebis agarithe</i>	1-12	1-12	shrubby and tree legumes (Pea Family), including cassia
1 Cassius Blue <i>Leptotes cassius</i>	1-12	1-12	plumbago
1 Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	1-12	1-12	passion flower (<i>Passiflora incarnata, suberosa, incense</i>)
Zebra <i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	1-12	1-12	passion flower (<i>Passiflora incarnata, suberosa, incense</i>)
1 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	1-12	1-12	milkweeds, especially scarlet (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>)
Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	1-12	1-12 (more in winter)	legumes (pea family)

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

NAME	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Great Southern White <i>Ascia monuste</i>	saltwort, peppergrass	occasionally in my garden; mostly seen in "native" area along ditches/streams; maybe high numbers in March-April
Atala <i>Eumaeus atala</i>	coontie	found in county but not yet in my garden
Julia <i>Dryas iulia</i>	passionvine	not yet found in my garden
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	nettles, false nettles, hops	occasionally in my garden
White Peacock <i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	water hyssop, wild petunia	occasionally in my garden
Malachite <i>Siproeta stelenes</i>	green shrimp plant (<i>Blechum</i>), wild petunia (<i>Ruellia</i>)	found in county but not yet in my garden
Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	milkweeds, especially scarlet (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>)	rarely seen in my garden
small grass skippers (Hesperiinae)	grasses (but not mowed regularly as lawn)	small, dull, hard to identify

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA (JENSEN BEACH AREA)

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 10

If I had it to start over, I'd go with mostly native plants. A sprinkler system would still be needed for a couple years while the plants get established. Have less grass! And use a drip system for watering. Watering can be customized so that much less water is wasted. With local recycling program, free (or almost free) mulch can be gotten from the county. Other useful nectar flowers: annual sunflower, black-eyed Susan, coneflower (hard to grow here; it's too hot), coreopsis, marigold.

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