



# NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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## CENTRAL GULF COASTAL AREA OF TEXAS

by Ro Wauer & Derek Muschalek

### 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 season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N Agarita <i>Mahonia trifoliolata</i>	to 6'	yellow	S	many	
N Anacua <i>Ehretia anacua</i>	to 25'	white	S	many	
N Beebrush, Common <i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	to 7'	white	S	many	
A Viburnum, Little-leaf <i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	to 3'	white	S	many	
A Damianita <i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i>	to 2'	yellow	S-X	many	
A Blackfoot, Plains <i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>	8-12"	white	S-F	many	
2 N Cowpen Daisy <i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	to 3'	yellow	S-F	Gulf Fritillary	annual
N False Mallow, Threelobe <i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i>	to 2'	orange	S-F	Common Checkered-Skipper	
A Flame-Vine, Mexican <i>Senecio confusus</i>	vine	orange	S-F	Gulf Fritillary	
A Golden-eye, Skeleton <i>Viguiera stenoloba</i>	to 4'	yellow	S-F	many	
8 A Heather, Mexican <i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	to 10"	purple	S-F	many	
N Hierba del Marrano (Annual Aster) <i>Aster subulatus</i>	to 2'	white	S-F	many	
A Lantana, "NewGold" <i>Lantana</i>	to 2'	gold	S-F	many	cultivated variety
9 A Lantana, Weeping <i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	to 2'	purple	S-F	many	
N Milkweed, Butterfly <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	to 2'	orange	S-F	Monarch, Queen	

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
	A Milkweed, Mexican (Veintiunilla) <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	to 2'	yellow	S-F	Monarch, Queen	
6	N Palafoxia, Texas <i>Palafoxia texana</i>	to 3'	pink	S-F	Pipevine Swallowtail, Variegated Fritillary	annual
	A Pentas <i>Penta</i>	to 3'	varied	S-F	many	
4	N Sage, Mealy <i>Salvia farinacea</i>	to 3'	purple	S-F	Fiery & Eufala Skippers	
3	N Sage, Tropical <i>Salvia coccinea</i>	to 3'	red	S-F	Southern Dogface, Cloudless and Large Orange Sulphur	
	N Sida, Prickly <i>Sida spinosa</i>	to 2'	yellow	S-F	many	
	A Sky-flower <i>Duranta erecta</i>	to 8'	blue	S-F	many	forms hedge
	N Sunflower, Common <i>Helianthus annuus</i>	to 10'	yellow	S-F	Pipevine Swallowtail	annual
	A Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i>	to 3'	varied	S-F	many	
	N Crown-Beard, White (Frostweed) <i>Verbesina virginica</i>	to 6'	white	X-F	many	
1	N Crucita <i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	to 6'	blue	X-F	many	
5	N Frog-Fruit, Sawtooth <i>Phyla incisa</i>	to 6"	white	X-F	Phaon Crescent, Ceraunus Blue, Southern Skipperling	
	N Kidneywood, Texas <i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	to 7'	white	X-F	many	
7	N Eupatorium, Palmleaf <i>Eupatorium greggii</i>	to 2'	blue	F	Queen	
	N Eupatorium, Pink <i>Eupatorium incarnatum</i>	to 2'	white	F	Rounded Metalmark	
	N Capitana (Southern Frost- (weed) <i>Verbesina microptera</i>	to 3'	white	F	Great Purple Hairstreak	

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SECONDARY BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N Buckeye, Mexican <i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	to 20"	purple	S		
N Mountain-Laurel, Texas <i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	to 10'	purple	S		
A Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	to 15'	red	S		
A Silktree <i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	to 15'	pink	S	Swallowtails, Great Purple Hairstreak	
N Zexmenia <i>Zexmenia hispida</i>	to 24"	orange	S-X		
A Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	to 6"	purple	S-F		
A Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleia lindeyani</i>	to 5'	purple	S-F		
A Butterfly Bush, Woolly <i>Buddleia marrubifolia</i>	to 3'	orange	S-F		
N Groundsel, Threadleaf <i>Senecio douglasii</i>	to 2'	yellow	S-F	Queen	
A Honeysuckle, Winter <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	vine	yellow	S-F	large species	
N Lantana, Common <i>Lantana horrida</i>	to 5'	red	S-F		
N Pigeonberry <i>Rivina humilis</i>	to 2'	white	S-F		
A Rockrose <i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>	to 4'	red	S-F		
A Russian Sage <i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	to 3'	purple	S-F		
A Sage, Mexican Bush <i>Salvia leucantha</i>	to 2'	purple	S-F		
A Verbena <i>Verbena taylortown</i>	to 15"	purple	S-F		
A Yarrow <i>Achillea</i>	to 15"	reddish	S-F		
A Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	to 4'	red	X-F	larger species	
A Sage, Autumn <i>Salvia greggi</i>	to 3'	red	X-F		
A Sage, Blue Hill <i>Salvia sylvestris</i>	5"	purple	X-F		
A Senna <i>Cassia alata</i>	to 6'	yellow	F	Orange-barred Sulphur	

## CENTRAL GULF COASTAL AREA OF TEXAS

### NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
Bird-of-Paradise <i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i>	Colorful but useless for the butterfly garden.
Coneflower, Purple <i>Echinacea</i>	Doesn't tolerate extended periods of extreme heat.
Sunflower, Mexican <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Doesn't tolerate extended periods of extreme heat.

### 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 Aster, Heath <i>Aster ericoides</i>	2'	Pearl Crescent	blooms Oct.-Nov.
1	A Blue Passionvine <i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	vine	Gulf Fritillary	
5	A Candlesticks <i>Cassia alata</i>	5'	Cloudless Sulphur	easy to grow
6	A Common Canna <i>Canna indica</i>	2'	Brazilian Skipper	
4	N Common Sunflower <i>Helianthus annuus</i>	10'	Bordered Patch	annual
8	N Cowpen Daisy <i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	3'	Bordered Patch	easy to grow
7	N Crucita <i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	5'	Rounded Metalmark	easy to grow
2	A Dill <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	2'	Black Swallowtail	
	N False Mallow, Threelobe <i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i>	2'	Common Checkered-Skipper	
	N False Mint <i>Dicliptera brachiata</i>	1'	Texan Crescent	prefers shade
	N Gerardia, Stiffleaf <i>Agalinis caddoensis</i>	2'	Common Buckeye	blooms in fall
	N Flax, Stiffstem <i>Linum berlandieri</i>	2"	Variegated Fritillary	spring only
	N Frogfruit, Texas <i>Phyla incisa</i>	5"	Phaon Crescent	good for ground covers
	N Hackberry, Spiny (Granjeno) <i>Celtis pallida</i>	8'	American Snout	
	N Kidneywood, Texas <i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	7'	Southern Dogface	

CENTRAL GULF COASTAL AREA OF TEXAS

**TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS**

(continued)

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
3 A Mexican Milkweed (Veintiunilla) <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2'	Queen, Monarch	must replant annually
N Mistletoe <i>Phoradendron</i>		Great Purple Hairstreak	
N Pepperweed, Virginia <i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	1"	Falcate Orangetip	prefers moist sites, annual
N Pellitory, Pennsylvania (Hammerwort) <i>Parietaria pennsylvanica</i>	6"	Red Admiral	spring annual, grows in shade
N Purslane, Desert <i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i>	2'	Western Pygmy-Blue	annual
N Soapberry, Western <i>Sapindus saponaria</i>	20'	Soapberry Hairstreak	
N Thistle, Texas <i>Cirsium texanum</i>	3'	Painted Lady	annual
N Swanflower <i>Aristolochia erecta</i>	4"	Pipevine Swallowtail	

**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, 2 = probable, 3 =less likely). Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (1 = January, 2 = February, 3 = March, etc.) and letters correspond to the season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall)..

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
1 Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	1-12	5-11	pipe vines ( <i>Aristolochia</i> )
1 Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	1-12	3-10	Prickly-ash ( <i>Zanthoxylum</i> )
2 Orange Sulphur <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	3-10	4-10	many
2 Southern Dogface <i>Colias cesonja</i>	2-11	2-11	Dalea & clovers
1 Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	1-12	4-11	Sennas
2 Large Orange Sulphur <i>Phoebis agarithe</i>	2-12	5-11	Texas Ebony ( <i>Pithecellobium flexicuale</i> )
1 Little Yellow <i>Eurema lisa</i>	1-12	4-11	many legumes
2 Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	1-12	3-11	many
2 Ceraunus Blue <i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>	4-12	6-10	many legumes
2 Dusky-blue Groundstreak <i>Calycopis isobeon</i>	2-11	3-11	many
2 American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>	4-12	6-11	Hackberry
2 Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	1-12	4-11	Passionvines

CENTRAL GULF COASTAL AREA OF TEXAS

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
3 Variegated Fritillary <i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	2-11	2-11	many	
2 Bordered Patch <i>Chlosyne lacinia</i>	3-11	3-11	Composites	
1 Phaon Crescent <i>Phyciodes phaon</i>	1-12	2-11	Frog Fruit	
2 Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	1-12	4-11	Asters	
2 Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	9-5	10-5	Pellitory	
2 Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	1-12	2-11	many	
3 Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	1-12	3-10	Netleaf Hackberry	
2 Tawny Emperor <i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	3-11	3-10	Netleaf Hackberry	
2 Gemmed Satyr <i>Cyllopsis gemma</i>	2-12	2-11	grasses	
2 Carolina Satyr <i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>	2-11	2-11	grasses	
2 Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	2-12	4-11	Milkweeds	
2 Coyote Cloudywing <i>Achalarus toxeus</i>	2-11	3-11	Blackbrush ( <i>Acacia rigidula</i> )	
2 Horace's Duskywing <i>Erynnis horatius</i>	2-10	2-10	oaks	
1 Common Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus communis</i>	1-12	2-11	many	
1 Tropical Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus oileus</i>	1-12	2-11	mallows	
1 Clouded Skipper <i>Lerema accius</i>	1-12	2-12	grasses	
1 Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	1-12	2-12	grasses	
2 Southern Broken-Dash <i>Wallengrenia otho</i>	2-11	4-10	grasses	
1 Sachem <i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	1-12	2-11	grasses	
2 Dun Skipper <i>Euphyes vestris</i>	3-11	4-9	Sedges ( <i>Carex</i> )	
2 Celia's Roadside-Skipper <i>Amblyscirtes celia</i>	3-11	3-11	grasses	
2 Eufala Skipper <i>Lerodea eufala</i>	2-12	2-12	grasses	
2 Ocola Skipper <i>Panoquina ocola</i>	6-12	6-11	grasses	

CENTRAL GULF COASTAL AREA OF TEXAS

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	1-10	3-10	Dill	
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	2-11	3-10	Mexican Ash ( <i>Fraxinus berlandieriana</i> ), Red Ash ( <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> )	
Checkered White <i>Pontia protodice</i>	3-7	3-6		
Falcate Orangetip <i>Anthocharis midea</i>	2-4	2-4	Peppergrass ( <i>Lepidium virginicum</i> )	
Orange-barred Sulphur <i>Phoebis philea</i>	5-12	6-10	Senna	
Mexican Yellow <i>Eurema mexicana</i>	11-12			a regular stray
Sleepy Orange <i>Eurema nicippe</i>	1-12	4-11	Senna	
Dainty Sulphur <i>Nathalis iole</i>	1-12	2-11	Composites	
Great Purple Hairstreak <i>Atlides halesus</i>	2-11	3-10	mistletoe	
Soapberry Hairstreak <i>Phaeostrymon alcestis</i>	4-5	4-5	Western Soapberry ( <i>Sapindus saponaria</i> )	
Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak <i>Strymon istapa</i>	1-12	5-12	Prickly Sida ( <i>Sida spinosa</i> )	
Rounded Metalmark s <i>Calephelis perditali</i>	4-11	4-11	Pink Eupatorium ( <i>Eupatorium incarnatum</i> )	
Julia Heliconian <i>Dryas julia</i>	6-12			a regular stray
Zebra Heliconian <i>Heliconius charithonia</i>	6-12			a regular stray
Theona Checkerspot <i>Chlosyne theona</i>	4-6	4-6	Cenizo ( <i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i> )	
Texan Crescent <i>Phyciodes texana</i>	1-11	2-11	False-Mint ( <i>Dicliptera brachiata</i> ), Shrimp Plant	
Vesta Crescent <i>Phyciodes vesta</i>	3-10	3-10	Tubetongue ( <i>Siphonoglossa</i> )	
Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	1-12	3-11	Hackberry	
Common Mestra <i>Mestra amymone</i>	6-12	6-12	Shortspike Noseburn ( <i>Tragia brevispica</i> )	
White Peacock <i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	9-11			a regular stray
Goatweed Leafwing <i>Anaea andria</i>	1-12	4-11	Crotons	
Soldier <i>Danaus eresimus</i>	10-11			a regular stray
White-striped Longtail <i>Chioides catillus</i>	2-11	4-11	various Legumes	
Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	6-11	7-11	various Legumes	
Northern Cloudywing <i>Thorybes pylades</i>	2-9	3-9	various Legumes	
Sickle-winged Skipper <i>Achlyodes thraso</i>	3-12	4-11	Lime Pricklyash ( <i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i> )	
False Duskywing <i>Gesta gesta</i>	5-10	5-10	Indigo ( <i>Indigofera</i> )	
Desert Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus philetas</i>	2-11	3-11	Spreading Sida ( <i>Sida abutifolia</i> )	
Turk's-cap White-Skipper <i>Heliopetes macaira</i>	4-11	4-11	Turk's-cap ( <i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i> )	
Southern Skipperling <i>Copaeodes minimus</i>	2-12	4-11	grasses	
Whirlabout <i>Polites vibex</i>	1-12	3-11	grasses	

CENTRAL GULF COASTAL AREA OF TEXAS

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Brazilian Skipper <i>Calpododes ethlius</i>	7-12	5-11	Cannas	

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 9

There are 275 to 310 frost-free days each year, mean annual temperature of 68-72°F, and 32-40 inches of annual rainfall. Killing freezes occur approximately every three years. Summer temperatures can begin very early, sometimes in late March. Warm days can last into December, so October through December is the best time for planting a butterfly garden.

English and scientific names for plants are derived from "Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Texas," by S. L. Hatch, K. N. Gandhi, and L. E. Brown, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas, 1990.

*Julia adults and caterpillar on passionvine,  
by Elizabeth Smith. This butterfly is a regular stray in the area.*

