



# Horticulture



## BUTTERFLY PLANTS FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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Whether a gardener has a large plot of land or a tiny patio to work with, a butterfly garden can be easily established and maintained provided the correct butterfly attracting plants are selected.

Butterflies need two kinds of plants in order to reproduce and inhabit your garden. The first requirement is nectar plants which provide a food source. The second requirement is host larval plants on which the female butterflies will lay her eggs and caterpillars will hatch. A host larval plant is a place of intense caterpillar feeding. Be forewarned! It is wise to plant a grouping of host plants because as the caterpillars get larger and larger they will devour the leaves of the host plant before entering their final stage. That last stage is the dramatic formation of a chrysalis, from which, after a period of time of usually a week or two, a beautiful new butterfly emerges.

Different species of butterflies have very distinct preferences for nectar and host plants. If you want to attract a variety of species, the following guide to nectar and host plants for butterflies commonly seen in the Southwest Florida should help you make your selections. There are many more butterflies seen in this area than those that are listed below. Those plants listed can be easily found in garden centers throughout Southwest Florida. Once you start butterfly gardening, you will notice butterflies in your garden that are not there because of what you have planted, but because they are attracted to common weeds in your garden or lawn, or in areas such as roadsides and pastures near your home. Butterfly gardening is full of surprises.

## HOST (LARVAL) PLANTS FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CATERPILLARS

PLANT	CHARACTERISTIC	BUTTERFLY ATTRACTED
Butterfly Pea ( <i>Centrosema virginianum</i> )	Vine	Skippers
Carrot Family — Dill, Fennel, Parsley	Annual	Eastern Black Swallowtail
Cassia ( <i>Cassia spp.</i> )	Shrub/tree	Cloudless Sulfur, Orange Barred Sulfur, Sleepy Orange
Citrus Family — Orange, Lemon, Grape- fruit, Wild Lime, etc.	Shrub/Small tree	Giant Swallowtail
Corky Stemmed Passionvine ( <i>Passiflora suberosa</i> )(N)	Perennial vine	Gulf Fritillary and Julia (in sun), Zebra Longwing (in shade)
Dutchman's Pipe ( <i>Aristolochia spp.</i> )	Perennial vine	Pipevine Swallowtail, Gold Rim Swallowtail
Maypop ( <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> )(N)	Perennial vine	Gulf Fritillary and Julia (in sun), Zebra Longwing (in shade)
Mexican Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias curassavica</i> )	Perennial	Monarch, Queen
Nasturtium ( <i>Tropaeolum majus</i> )	Trailing annual	Great Southern White
Red Bay ( <i>Persea borbonia</i> )	Tree	Palamedes Swallowtail Spicebush Swallowtail
Senna ( <i>Senna sp.</i> )	Shrub/Small tree	Cloudless Sulfur, Orange Barred Sulfur, Sleepy Orange
Sweet Bay ( <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> )(N)	Small tree	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Wax Myrtle ( <i>Myrica cerifera</i> )(N)	Shrub/Small tree	Red-banded Hairstreak

(N) = Native Plant

## NECTAR PLANTS FOR SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUTTERFLIES

PLANT	CHARACTERISTIC	BUTTERFLY ATTRACTED
Butterfly Bush ( <i>Buddleia spp.</i> )	Woody perennial shrub	General species
Cassia ( <i>Cassia spp.</i> )	Shrub/tree	Cloudless Sulfur Orange-barred Sulfur Sleepy Orange
Firebush ( <i>Hamelia patens</i> ) (N)	Perennial shrub	Zebra Longwing General species
Golden Dewdrop (N) ( <i>Duranta repens</i> )	Shrub	Gulf Fritillary, Julia, Zebra Longwing, Skippers, Giant Swallowtail
Lantana ( <i>Lantana spp.</i> )	Woody perennial	General species
Mexican Heather ( <i>Cuphea hysoppifolia</i> )	Woody perennial shrub	General species
Mexican Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias curasavica</i> )	Perennial	Monarch, Queen
Pentas (Full sized, no dwarf) ( <i>Pentas lanceolate</i> )	Perennial	General species
Porterweed ( <i>Stachylapheta urticifolia</i> ) ( <i>Stachylaphaeta jamaicensis</i> ) (N)	Perennial	General species
Tampa Verbena ( <i>Glandularia Tampensis</i> ) (N)	Short-lived herbacious perennial	Skippers White Peacock

(N) = Native Plant

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