

BUTTERFLY GARDENING FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

While it is possible to attract many butterflies to your yard by planting nectar sources for them, the most important thing you can do to increase local butterfly populations is to plant the plants for their caterpillars (larvae) to eat. Yes, this means certain plants will no longer have perfect leaves but imperfection is all a part of Nature. You will have the satisfaction of doing something that ensures future generations of butterflies for you and others to enjoy. With both nectar and larval plants in your yard, butterflies will repay you for your efforts by bringing all their friends to feast at your buffet and make themselves at home in your motel, which in turn means you will plant more plants for them to nectar on and more plants for their caterpillars, etc. This means you must never spray pesticides on your plants again. It's not nice to invite someone for dinner and then give their food a shot of poison. With very little effort you can entice the butterflies listed below into your garden to raise their families and to bring great joy into your life. Put out the welcome mat!

LARVAL FOOD PLANTS	BUTTERFLIES
MILKWEED, both native and non-native (<i>Asclepias</i> species)	Monarch
<i>Cynanchum</i> , <i>Morrenia</i> & <i>Sarcostemma</i> are vines	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
in the milkweed family	Queen
	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>
SENNA species, both native and non-native, partridge pea, legumes	Cloudless Sulphur
Senna was formerly Cassia	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>
	Orange-barred Sulphur
	<i>Phoebis philea</i>
	Sleepy Orange
	<i>Eurema nicippe</i>
PLUMBAGO (<i>Plumbago scandens</i> and others)	Cassius Blue
	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>
LEGUMES (<i>Centrosema virginianum</i>); (<i>Galactia regularis</i>)	Ceraunus Blue
	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>
LEGUMES such as garden beans & peas	Long-tailed Skipper
	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>
PASSION VINE, both native and non-native (<i>Passiflora</i> species)	Gulf Fritillary
Gulf Frits prefer plants in sun	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>
Zebra prefers plants in shade	Zebra Heliconian
NEITHER uses red passion vines	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>
PIPEVINE, both native and non-native (<i>Aristolochia</i> species)	Pipevine Swallowtail
Pipevine Sw. prefers native - <i>A. serpentaria</i> or <i>A. tomentosa</i>	<i>Battus philenor</i>
Polydamas Sw. prefers non-native <i>Aristolochias</i>	Polydamas Swallowtail
	<i>Battus polydamas</i>
CARROT family inc. parsley, dill, fennel; <i>Eryngium</i> species also	Black Swallowtail
	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>
CUDWEED (<i>Gnaphalium</i> species)	American Lady
	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>
FALSE NETTLE (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>)	Red Admiral
and PELLITORY (<i>Parietaria</i> species)	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
PLANTAIN (<i>Plantago</i> species, False Foxglove (<i>Agalinus</i> species)	Common Buckeye
Wild Petunia (<i>Ruellia</i> species)	<i>Junonia coenia</i>
CITRUS trees; Hercules' Club (<i>Zanthoxylum clava-hercules</i>)	Giant Swallowtail
	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>
FROGFRUIT (<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>) also called Capeweed, Match Plant	Phaon Crescent
	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>
CANNA species, both native and non-native	Brazilian Skipper
	<i>Calpodus ethlius</i>
GRASSES, both native and non-native	Many skippers
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