

## Caterpillar Food Plants for the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas

Compiled by:

Mike Quinn, Invertebrate Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife

(512) 912-7059 - mike.quinn@tpwd.state.tx.us

This list is posted at: [www.naba.org/chapters/nabast/](http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabast/)

### April 2004 Update

Plant Family	Scientific Name (a)	Common Name	Sun Pref.	Nectar Quality	Bloom Period	Caterpillar Food Plant For: (b) (Some species listed are strictly Adult Nectar Plants)
--------------	---------------------	-------------	-----------	----------------	--------------	---

#### Acanthaceae - Acanthus Family

(l)	<i>Anisacanthus wrightii</i>	Flame Acanthus	Sun-Shade			Crimson Patch (c) (This host plant is native to Edwards Plateau)
(l)	<i>Blechum sp.</i>	Shrimp Plant	Sun-Shade	Fair		Malachite, Buckeyes, White Peacock
	<i>Carlowrightia parviflora</i>	Carlowrightia	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Elada Checkerspot, Crimson Patch, Banded Patch
	<i>Dicliptera vahliana</i>	Dicliptera	Pt. Shade	Fair	Spring	Banded Peacock, Rosita Patch, Texan Crescent, Pale-banded Crescent
	<i>Dyschoriste</i> (1) sp. (d)	Snakeherb			Sp-Sum	Common Buckeye
	<i>Justicia</i> (2) spp.	Water Willow	Pt. Shade	Good	Sum-Fall	Malachite, Banded Peacock, Texan Crescent
	<i>Ruellia nudiflora</i>	Common Wild Petuna	Pt. Shade	Fair	Sum-Fall	Common Buckeye, Tropical Buckeye
	<i>Ruellia runyonii</i>	Runyon's Wild Petuna	Sun-Shade	Fair	Sp-Sum	Common Buckeye, Pale-banded Crescent
	<i>Ruellia</i> (5) spp.	Wild Petuna	Pt. Shade	Fair		Malachite, White Peacock, Banded Peacock, Texan Crescent
	<i>Siphonoglossa pilosella</i>	Tube Tongue	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Tiny Checkerspot, Elada Checkerspot, Vesta Crescent, Texan Crescent
	<i>Stenandrium</i> (1) sp.	Shaggytuft	Pt. Shade		Sp-Fall	Definite Patch

#### Aizoaceae - Carpet Weed Family

	<i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i>	Horse Purslane	Full Sun		Sum-Fall	Western Pygmy-Blue
--	----------------------------------	----------------	----------	--	----------	--------------------

#### Amaranthaceae - Amaranth Family

	<i>Achyranthus aspera</i>	Chaff Flower		Poor	Sum-Fall	Mazan's Scallopwing
	<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	Green Amaranth	Full Sun	Poor	Sp-Fall	Common Sootywing
	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	Spiny Pigweed	Full Sun	Poor	Sum-Fall	Common Sootywing
	<i>Amaranthus</i> (8) spp.	Careless Weed	Full Sun	Poor	All Year	Mazan's Scallopwing, Common Sootywing
	<i>Celosia</i> (1) sp.	Cleosia			Sum-Fall	Common Sootywing
	<i>Salicornia</i> (2) spp.	Glasswort	Full Sun			Western Pygmy-Blue
	<i>Suaeda torreyana</i>	Sea Blight (!)	Full Sun		Summer	Western Pygmy-Blue

#### Amaryllidaceae - (Yucca) Amaryllis Family

	<i>Manfreda</i> (2) sp.	Huaco	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Manfreda Giant-Skipper
--	-------------------------	-------	----------	--	---------	------------------------

#### Apiaceae - Parsely Family

(l)	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Dill			Sp-Sum	Black Swallowtail (Plant is an escaped cultivar)
	<i>Daucus pusillus</i>	Rattlesnake Weed	Full Sun		Spring	Black Swallowtail
(l)	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Common Fennel			Sp-Sum	Black Swallowtail (Plant is an escaped cultivar)
	<i>Spermolepis</i> (1) sp.	Scale Seed	Full Sun			Black Swallowtail

#### Aristolochiaceae - Pipe Vine Family

<i>Aristolochia marshii</i>	Pipe Vine	Full Sun		Spring	Pipevine Swallowtail, Polydamus Swallowtail, Cattle Heart
-----------------------------	-----------	----------	--	--------	---

**Asclepiadaceae - Milkweed Family**

?(l) <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Mexican Milkweed	All Cond.	Good	Sp-Fall	Queen, Monarch, Tiger Mimic-Queen
<i>Asclepias oenotheroides</i>	Hierba de Zizotes	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Monarch
<i>Cynanchum barbigerum</i>	Cynanchum	All Cond.		Sp-Fall	Variegated Fritillary
<i>Cynanchum</i> (2) spp.	Climbing Milkweed	Shade		Sp-Fall	Queen, Soldier
<i>Matelea reticulata</i>	Pearl Milkweed	Shade	poor	Sp-Fall	Queen, Monarch
<i>Sarcostemma cynanchoides</i>	Climbing Milkweed	All Cond.		Sum-Fall	Queen, Soldier & Monarch

**Asteraceae - Sunflower Family**

Family Contains **Many Good Adult Nectar Sources**

<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Short ragweed	Full Sun	Poor	Sum-Fall	Bordered Patch (This plant is a major source of allergenic pollen)
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Giant Ragweed	Full Sun	Poor	Sum-Fall	Bordered Patch
<i>Aster</i> (1) sp.	Hierba del Marrano	Full Sun	Good	Sum-Fall	Pearl Crescent
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Sleepwillow	Full Sun	Good	Fall	Fatal Metalmark, Elada Checkerspot
<i>Bidens</i> (2) spp.	Bur Marigold	Sun-Shade	Good	Sp., Fall	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Centaurea</i> (1) sp.	Basket Flower	Part/Full	Good	Sp-Sum	Painted Lady
<i>Cirsium texanum</i>	Texas Thistle	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Sum	Painted Lady (annual nectar source)
<i>Erigeron</i> (2) spp.	Flea Bane	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Sum	Pearl Crescent
<i>Eupatorium azureum</i>	Blue Mistflower	Part/Full	Fair	Spring	Adult Nectar Source - All species of <i>Eupatorium</i> should be tried
<i>Eup. betonicifolium</i>	Betony Mistflower	Part/Full	Excel	Sp-Fall	Rounded Metalmark ( <b>Great Nectar Source</b> )
<i>Eup. compositifolium</i>	Yankee Weed/Dogfennel			Fall	Adult Nectar Source
(l) <i>Eupatorium greggii</i>	Gregg's Mistflower	Part/Full	Excel	Sp-Fall	Rawson's Metalmark (Native to the Edwards Plateau)
<i>Eupatorium havanense</i>	Havana Snakeroot				Rawson's Metalmark, Bordered Patch
<i>Eupatorium incarnatum</i>	White Mistflower	Part/Full	Excel	Fall-Wint	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Eupatorium odoratum</i>	Crucita	Pt/Full Sun	Excel	Fall-Wint	Rounded Metalmark - <b>Best fall nectar plant in all of So. Texas</b>
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Indian blanket	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Sum	Bordered Patch
<i>Gnaphalium</i> (1) sp.	Cudweed	Full Sun	Poor	Spring	American Lady
<i>Helenium</i> (5) spp.	Sneezeweed	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Helianthus annulus</i>	Common Sunflower	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Bordered Patch, Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Heterotheca latifolia</i>	Camphor Weed	Full Sun		Sp., Fall	Bordered Patch
<i>Mikania</i> (1) sp.	Climbing Hemp Weed	Full Sun		Sum-Fall	Tropical Greenstreak
<i>Palafoxia</i> (1) sp.	Palafoxia	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Dainty Sulphur, Bordered Patch (annual nectar source)
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	False ragweed	Sun-Shade		Sp-Fall	Bordered Patch
(l) <i>Senecio confusum</i>	Mexican Love Vine	Full Sun	Excel		Adult Nectar Source, especially for Queens (Non-Native Plant)
<i>Senecio ampullaceus</i>	Groundsel	Full Sun	Good	Spring	American Lady (All native <i>Senecios</i> should be tried for Nectar)
<i>Simsia calva</i>	Bush sunflower	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Bordered Patch
<i>Solidago</i> (2) sp.	Goldenrod	Full Sun	Excel	Sum-Fall	Adult Nectar Source (Goldenrod is <b>not</b> source of allergenic pollen)
<i>Thelesperma</i> (1) sp.	Green Thread	Full Sun		Spring	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	Cowpen Daisy	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Bordered Patch (great nectar source)
<i>Viguiera stenoloba</i>	Golden Eye Daisy	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Bordered Patch (great nectar source)
<i>Wedelia hispida</i>	Zexmenia	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Bordered Patch (plant is xeric)
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur	Full Sun		Sum-Fall	Bordered Patch

**Boraginaceae - Borage Family**

<i>Cordia boissieri</i>	Wild Olive	Full Sun	Excel	All Year	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Heliotropium</i> (6) sp.	Heliotrope	Full Sun	Excel	All Year	Adult Nectar Source

**Brassicaceae - Mustard Family**

<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	Tansy mustard				Cabbage White, Checkered White
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	Lentejilla	Full Sun	Poor	mostly Sp.	Checkered White, Great Southern White
<i>Lepidium</i> (2) spp.	Peppergrass	Full Sun	Poor		Falcate Orangetip
<i>Rorippa</i> sp.	Watercress			mostly Sp.	Great Southern White
<i>Sisymbrium</i> (2) spp.	Rocket Mustard				Falcate Orangetip

**Bromeliaceae - Pineapple Family**

<i>Tillandsia</i> (3) spp.	Spanish or Ball Moss	Part Sun	Poor	Spring	Red-bordered Metalmark
----------------------------	----------------------	----------	------	--------	------------------------

**Cannaceae - Canna Family**

(l) <i>Canna</i> sp.	Canna				Brazilian Skipper (Non Native Butterfly and Host Plant)
----------------------	-------	--	--	--	---

**Capparidaceae - Caper Family**

<i>Capparis</i> (1) sp.	Caper			Sp-Sum	Giant & Florida White
<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i>	Clammy weed	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Cabbage White, Checkered White, Great Southern White

**Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family**

(l) <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Australian Saltbush	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	a family of weedy herbs, Atriplex sp. common along coast
<i>Atriplex canthocarpa</i>	Spiny Fruited Saltbush	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Western Pygmy Blue (Non-Native Host Plant)
<i>Atriplex</i> (6) spp.	Saltbush	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Saltbush Sootywing
(l) <i>Chenopodium album</i>	Pigweed				Common Sootywing, Western Pygmy-Blue
<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i>	Mexican Tea	Full Sun		All Year	Western Pygmy Blue (Non-Native Host Plant)
<i>Chenopodium berlandieri</i>	Pitseed Goosefoot	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Mazan's Scallopwing, Common Sootywing
					Common Sootywing, Golden-headed Scallopwing

**Convolvulaceae - Morning Glory Family**

<i>Ipomoea trichocarpa</i>	Tie Vine	Full Sun		Sum-Fall	(?) Purplish-black Skipper
<i>Ipomoea</i> (9) spp.	Morning Glory	Full Sun		all year	Variegated Fritillary, Purplish-black Skipper, Morning Glory Pellicia

**Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family**

<i>Sedum texanum</i>	Stonecrop	Full Sun		Winter	Xami Hairstreak
----------------------	-----------	----------	--	--------	-----------------

**Cycadaceae - Cycad Family**

(l) <i>Zamia loddigesii</i>	Cycad	Full Sun	poor		Mexican Cycadian (Non-Native Host Plant)
-----------------------------	-------	----------	------	--	--

**Ebenaceae - Persimmon Family**

<i>Diospyros texana</i>	Texas persimmon	Sun-Shade		Winter-Sp.	Gray Hairstreak
-------------------------	-----------------	-----------	--	------------	-----------------

**Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family**

<i>Adelia vaseyi</i>	Vasey Adelia	Shade		Sp-Summ	Mexican Bluewing
----------------------	--------------	-------	--	---------	------------------

<i>Bernardia myricaefolia</i>	Oreja de Raton	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Lacey's Scrub-Hairstreak
<i>Croton capitatus</i>	Woolly Croton	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Goatweed Leafwing
<i>Croton humilis</i>	Croton	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Tropical Leafwing
<i>Croton soliman</i>	Croton	Full Sun	Fair	Spring	Tropical Leafwing
<i>Croton</i> (9) spp.	Croton	Full Sun	Fair	All Year	Leafwings, Starred Skipper
<i>Tragia glanduligera</i>	Noseburn	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Common Mestra, Red Rim
<i>Tragia ramosa</i>	Noseburn	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Blue-Eyed Sailor, Common Mestra, Red Rim
<i>Tragia sp.</i>	Noseburn	Sun-Shade		Sp-Fall	Gray Cracker
(l) <i>Dalechampia sp.</i>	Dalechampia				Mexican Bluewing, Common Mestra, Crackers (Non-Native Host)

## Fabaceae - Legume Family

Legumes are important food plants for many butterfly species

### Mimosoideae Subfamily

<i>Acacia angustissima</i>	Fern Acacia	Full Sun		Summer	Mexican Yellow, Ceraunus Blue, Rekart's Blue, Outis Skipper
<i>Acacia berlandieri</i>	Guajillo	Full Sun	Excel	Spring	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Acacia greggii</i>	Catclaw Acacia	Full Sun		Sp-Summ	Marine Blue
<i>Acacia roemeriana</i>	Roemer's Acacia	Full Sun			Rekart's Blue
(l) <i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Silktree	Full Sun			Rekart's Blue
<i>Leucaena pulverulenta</i>	Tepeguaje	Full Sun		Sp-Summ	Mimosa Yellow (a fast growing tree freq. used in reforestation efforts)
<i>Mimosa malacophylla</i>	Vine Mimosa, Raspilla	Full Sun		All year	Gray Ministreak
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Black Mimosa	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Mimosa Skipper
<i>Mimosa</i> (1) sp.	Powderpuff	Full Sun		sp-Sum	Mimosa Yellow, Little Yellow
<i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i>	Texas Ebony	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	White Angled-Sulphur, Large Orange Sulphur Cassius Blue, Coyote Skipper Red-bordered Pixie (Non-Native Host Plant)
(l) <i>Pithecellobium dulce</i>	Guamuchil	Full Sun			
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Honey Mesquite	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Summ	Marine Blue, Long-tailed Skipper
<i>Prosopis reptans</i>	Screwbean Mesquite	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Clytie Ministreak, Blue Metalmark
(l) <i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>	Black Locust	Full Sun			Silver-spotted Skipper
<i>Schrankia</i> (1) sp.	Sensitive Brier	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Little Yellow, Mimosa Yellow, Teleus Longtail, Plain Longtail

### Caesalpinoideae Subfamily

(l) <i>Bauhinia mexicana</i>	Orchid Tree	Full Sun	Good		Tailed Aguna, Gold-spotted Aguna, Long-tailed Skipper, Gilbert's Flasher
<i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i>	Mexican Caesalpinia	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Sum	Curve-winged Metalmark, Apricot Sulphur
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Cloudless Sulphur, Little Yellow
<i>Chamaecrista flexuosa</i>	Texas Senna	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Tailed Orange
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Retama	Full Sun		Sp-Summ	Clench's Greenstreak
(l) <i>Senna corymbosa</i>	Argentine Senna	Full Sun	Fair		Cloudless Sulphur, Mottled Longtail (Non-Native Host Plant)
<i>Senna lindheimeriana</i>	Lindheimer Senna	Full Sun		Sum-Win	Orange-barred Sulphur, Boisduval's Yellow
<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	Sickle Pod	Full Sun		Sum-Fall	Cloudless Sulphur
<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	Coffee Senna	Full Sun		Sum-Win	Mottled Longtail
(l) <i>Senna pendula</i>	Christmas Senna	Full Sun	Good	Fall-Winter	Cloudless Sulphur, Orange-barred Sulphur, Sleepy Orange Boisduval's Yellow, Mottled Longtail
<i>Senna</i> (5) sp.	Senna	Full Sun		Sum-Fall	Ceraunus Blue, Angled-Sulphurs, Satira, Broken Silverdrop

**Papilionoideae Subfamily**

<i>Astragalus nuttallianus</i>	Nuttall Milkvetch	Full Sun		Spring	Northern Cloudywing
<i>Astragalus</i> (4) spp.	Vetch	Full Sun		Sp (Sum)	Ceraunus Blue, Marine Blue, Rekirt's Blue
<i>Centrosema virginianum</i>	Butterfly Pea	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Funereal Duskywing
<i>Coursetia axillaris</i>	Baby Bonnets	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Southern Dogface (a spineless legume)
<i>Crotolaria incana</i>	Rattlepod	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Cassius Blue
<i>Dalea pogonathera</i>	Bearded Dalea		Good	Win-Sum	Rekirt's Blue, Southern Dogface
<i>Dalea</i> (6) spp.	Dalea		Good		Marine Blue
<i>Desmanthus virgatus</i>	Wild Tantan			Sp-Fall	Mimosa Yellow
<i>Desmanthus</i> (1) sp.	Bundleflower				Rekirt's Blue, Little Yellow
<i>Desmodium paniculatum</i>	Tickclover				Northern Cloudywing
<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	Texas Kidneywood	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Southern Dogface
<i>Galactia</i> (2) spp.	Milkpea			Sp-Su (Fa)	Marine Blue, Cassius Blue, White-striped Longtail
<i>Indigofera miniata</i>	Scarlet Pea	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Rekirt's Blue, Cassius Blue, Funereal Duskywing, False Duskywing
(l) <i>Indigofera suffruticosa</i>	Indigo	Full Sun		Sum-Fall	False Duskywing (Non-Native Host Plant)
<i>Lupinus texensis</i>	Texas Bluebonnet	Full Sun		Spring	Northern Cloudywing, Painted & American Lady, Orange Sulphur
(l) <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	Common Bean				Cassius Blue, Long-tailed Skipper (Non-Native Host Plant)
<i>Phaseolus atropurpureus</i>	Purple Bean	Full Sun		Spring	Ceraunus, Marine Blue, Cassius Blue, Falcate Skip, White-striped Longtl
<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>	Snout Bean	Full Sun		All year	Ceraunus Blue, Mercurial Skipper, White-striped Longtail
<i>Rhynchosia senna</i>	Texas Snout Bean	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	White-striped Longtail, Northern Cloudywing
<i>Sesbania drummondii</i>	Rattlebush	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Funereal Duskywing
<i>Tephrosia lindheimeri</i>	Hoary Pea	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	White-striped Longtail
<i>Vicia</i> (1) sp.	Vetch	Full Sun		Spring	Funereal Duskywing
<i>Vigna</i> (1) sp.	Wild Cowpea			All year	Mercurial Skipper, Long-tailed Skipper
(l) <i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese Wisteria				Silver-spotted Skipper (Non-Native Host Plant)

**Fagaceae - Oak Family**

(l) <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Live Oak	Full Sun		Spring	(Oak trees are not native along the Rio Grande) Horace's Duskywing, Oak Hairstreak
-------------------------------	----------	----------	--	--------	---

**Hydrophyllaceae - Waterleaf Family**

<i>Phacelia congesta</i>	Blue-curls	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Painted Lady
--------------------------	------------	----------	--	--------	--------------

**Lamiaceae - Mint Family**

<b><u>Family Contains Many Good Adult Nectar Sources</u></b>					
<i>Monarda</i> (3) sp.	Horse Mint	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Salvia ballotiflora</i>	Shrubby Blue Sage	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Scarlet Sage	Full Sun	Good	All Year	Painted Lady - Adult Nectar Source
<i>Scutellaria</i> (2) sp.	Scullcap	Shade/Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Stachys crenata</i>	Shade betony	Shade	Good	Spring	Painted Lady

**Lauraceae - Laurel Family**

(l) <i>Litsea</i> sp.	Pond Spice				(Family is not native to RGV) Three-tailed Swallowtail
(l) <i>Persea americana</i>	Avocado				Victorine Swallowtail

**Lilliaceae - Lily Family**

<i>Yucca treculeana</i>	Spanish Dagger	Full Sun		Spring	Yucca Giant-Skipper
<b>Linaceae - Flax Family</b>					
<i>Linum</i> (3) sp.	Flax	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Variegated Fritillary
<b>Loganiaceae - Logania Family</b>					
(I) <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush	Full Sun		<i>Excel-to-Poor</i> (e)	Adult Nectar Source - (Non-Native, <i>Many</i> Cultivated Varieties)
<i>Buddleia sessiliflora</i>	Butterfly Bush	Part Sun		Good	Adult Nectar Source - This species <i>is</i> Native
<i>Spigelia texana</i>	Texas Pinkroot			Good	(?) Soldier
<b>Loranthaceae - Mistletoe Family</b>					
<i>Phoradendron tomentosum</i>	Mistletoe			Win-Sum	Great Purple Hairstreak, Mexican Dartwhite
<b>Malpighiaceae - Malpighia Family</b>					
<i>Malpighia glabra</i>	Barbados Cherry	All Cond.	Fair	Sp-Fall	White-patched Skipper, Brown-banded Skipper, Funereal Duskywing, Cassius Blue, Marius Hairstreak, Strophius Hairstreak
<b>Malvaceae - Mallow Family</b>					
					<u>Family Contains <b>Many Good Adult Nectar Sources</b></u>
<i>Abutilon berlandieri</i>	Berlandier's Abutilon				Laviana White-Skipper, Texas Powdered-Skipper
<i>Abutilon fruticosum</i>	Indian Mallow	Full Sun	Good	All Year	White Scrub-Hairstreak, Texas Powdered, Common Streaky-Skipper
<i>Abutilon hypoleucum</i>	Rio Grande Abutilon	Full Sun		Spring	Laviana White-Skipper
<i>Abutilon trisulcatum</i>	Amantillo	Shade		Sp-Fall	Laviana White-Skipper, Turk's-cap White-Skipper
<i>Abutilon wrightii</i>	Wright's Indian Mallow	Full Sun	Good	Sum-Fall	White Scrub-Hairstreak, Texas Powdered Skipper
<i>Abutilon</i> (7) spp.	Abutilon	Full Sun	Good	All Year	Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak, Erichson's White-Skipper
<i>Allowissadula</i> (1) sp.	Pseudoabutilon	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Texas Powdered Skipper, Laviana White-Skipper
<i>Callirhoe</i> (1) sp.	Winecup	Full Sun		Spring	Common Checkered-Skipper
<i>Herissantia crispa</i>	Bladdermallow	Full Sun		All Year	Laviana White-Skipper, Turk's-cap White-Skipper, Erichson's White-Skipper, Red-crescent Scrub-Hairstreak
<i>Hibiscus martianus</i>	Heart Leaf Hibiscus	Full Sun	Excel	Spring	Yojoa Scrub-Hairstreak, Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak, Gray Hairstreak
<i>Malachra</i> (1) sp.	Malva de Caballo	Full Sun		All Year	Glassy-winged Skipper
<i>Malva</i> (2) spp.	Cheese Weed	Full Sun		All Year	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Malvastrum americanum</i>	Malva Loca	Full Sun		all year	Laviana White-Skipper
<i>M. coromandelianum</i>	3-Lobe False Mallow	Full Sun		all year	Red-Crescent Scrub-Hairstreak, Tropical Checkered-Ckipper
<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i>	Turk's Cap	All Cond.	Excel	Sp-Fall	Glassy-winged Skipper, Turk's-cap White-Skipper
<i>Meximalva filipes</i>	Violet Sida	Full Sun		All Year	Laviana White-Skipper, Common Streaky Skipper
(I) <i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>	Rose Pavonia	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Adult Nectar Source (Native to Edwards Plateau)
<i>Sida abutifolia</i>	Spreading Sida			Summer	Common Checkered-Skipper, Desert Checkered-Skipper
<i>Sida lindheimeri</i>	Lindheimer's Sida		Fair	All Year	Laviana White-Skipper, Common Checkered-Skipper
(I) <i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Arrowleaf Sida				Common Checkered-Skipper
<i>Sida</i> (6) spp.	Sida		Fair	All Year	Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak, Tropical Checkered-Skipper
<i>Sphaeralcea lindheimeri</i>	Woolly Globe Mallow				Common Checkered-Skipper
<i>Sphaeralcea</i> (2) spp.	Globe Mallow	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Texas Powdered Skipper, Common Streaky-Skipper
<i>Wissadula amplissima</i>	Wissadula	Full Sun		Fall	Texas Powdered Skipper, Common Streaky-Skipper

<b>Moraceae - Mulberry Family</b>					Ruddy Daggerwing
(l) <i>Morus</i> (1) sp.	Mulberry			Win-Sp	Many-banded Daggerwing (Non-Native Host Plant)
<b>Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family</b>					Plants in this family are not native to Texas
(l) <i>Psidium cattleianum</i>	Strawberry Guava	Full Sun			Guava Skipper
(l) <i>Psidium guajava</i>	Guava	Full Sun			Guava Skipper
<b>Nyctaginaceae - Four O'Clock Family</b>					
<i>Boerhaavia coccinea</i>	Scarlet Spiderling	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Variegated Fritillary
<b>Oleaceae - Olive Family</b>					
<i>Fraxinus</i> (1) sp.	Ash	Sun-Shade	Poor	Spring	Two-tailed Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak
<b>Oxalidaceae - Wood Sorrel Family</b>					
<i>Oxalis</i> (4) spp.	Wood Sorrel	Full Sun		Win-Sum	Cyna Blue
<b>Passifloraceae - Passion Flower Family</b>					
(l) <i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	Blue Passion Flower		Fair		Gulf Fritillary (Non-Native Host Plant)
<i>Passiflora filipes</i>	Spread-Lobe Passion	Pt. Shade	Fair	All Year	??
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	Corona de Cristo	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary (aggressive vine)
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	"Corky" Passion V	Pt. Shade	Fair	All Year	Zebra Heliconian, Julia Heliconian, Mexican Silverspot, Gulf Fritillary
<i>Passiflora tenuiloba</i>	Slender Lobe Passion	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Fall	Gulf Fritillary, Julia Heliconian
<b>Phytolaccaceae - Pokeweed Family</b>					
<i>Rivina humilis</i>	Pigeon Berry	All Cond.	Fair	All Year	Goodson's Greenstreak
<b>Piperaceae - Pepper Family</b>					(Plants in this family are Non-Native)
(l) <i>Piper spp.</i>	Pepper				Thoas Swallowtail
<b>Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family</b>					
<i>Plantago</i> (3) spp.	Plantain	Full sun	Poor	varies	Malachite, Common Buckeye, Painted Lady, Variegated Fritillary
<b>Plumbaginaceae - Plumbago Family</b>					
<i>Plumbago scandens</i>	White Plumbago	All Cond.	Excel	Sp-Fall	Marine & Cassius Blue (White Plumbago <i>is</i> native, Blue P. <i>isn't</i> )
<b>Poaceae - Grass Family</b>					<u>Introduced grasses are choking out other native foodplants</u>
<i>Axonopus</i>	Carpetgrass		Poor		Carolina Satyr
(l) <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Buffelgrass		Poor		Eufala Skipper, Clouded Skipper
(l) <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermudagrass		Poor		Brown Longtail, Olive-clouded Skipper, Southern Skipperling
					Sachem, Whirlabout, Fiery Skipper, Julia's Skipper Eufala Skipper, Carolina Satyr, Gemmed Satyr
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Coastal Saltgrass				Obscure Skipper
<i>Leersia</i> (3) spp.	Cutgrass		Poor		Doule-dotted Skipper; Gemmed Satyr
(l) <i>Lolium perenne</i>	Ryegrass		Poor		Brown Longtail

(l) <i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guineagrass		Poor		Brown Longtail, Teleus Longtail, Southern Broken-Dash, Common Mellana, Celia's Roadside-Skipper, Malicious Skipper, Fawn-spotted Skipper Ocola Skipper, Purple-washed Skipper, Violet-banded Skipper
<i>Paspalum setaceum</i>	Fringeleaf Paspalum		Poor		Clouded Skipper, Teleus Longtail
<i>Paspalum spp.</i>	Paspalum		Poor		Nysa Roadside-Skipper, Celia's Roadside-Skipper Violet-patched Skipper, Malicious Skipper Fawn-spotted Skipper, Southern Broken-Dash, Whirlabout
<i>Setaria</i> (12) spp.	Bristlegrass		Poor		Pale-rayed Skipper (some species of <i>Setaria</i> are introduced)
(l) <i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnsongrass		Poor		Brown Longtail
(l) <i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	St. Augustine Grass		Poor		Pale-rayed Skipper, Double-dotted Skipper, Brown Longtail Nysa Roadside-Skipper, Celia's Roadside-Skipper Sachem, Fiery Skipper, Clouded Skipper, Southern Broken-Dash Euphala Skipper, Julia's Skipper, Carolina Satyr

#### Portulacaceae - Purselane Family

<i>Portulaca umbraticola</i>	Purslane			Sp-Fall	Variegated Fritillary
------------------------------	----------	--	--	---------	-----------------------

#### Ranunculaceae - Crowfoot Family

<i>Clematis drummondii</i>	Old Man's Beard	Full Sun	Poor	Sp-Fall	Fatal Metalmark, Falcate Metalmark
----------------------------	-----------------	----------	------	---------	------------------------------------

#### Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family

<i>Condalia hookeri</i>	Brasil	Sun-Shade			American Snout
<i>Karwinskia humboltiana</i>	Coyotillo	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Sum	Two-barred Flasher

#### Rubiaceae - Madder Family

<i>Cephalanthus salicifolius</i>	Mexican Buttonbush	Full Sun	Excel	Sum-Fall	Adult Nectar Source - (plant prefers wet soil)
<i>Randia rhagocarpa</i>	Crucillo			Sp-Sum	Band-celled Sister

#### Rutaceae - Citrus Family

<i>Amyris</i> (2) spp.	Torchwood	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Giant Swallowtail
(l) <i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Orange	Full Sun	Good	Spring	Giant Swallowtail, Sickle-winged Skipper
(l) <i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	Full Sun	Good	Spring	Broad-banded Swallowtail, Ruby-spotted Swallowtail Thoas Swallowtail, Sickle-winged Skipper
(l) <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Lime	Full Sun	Good	Spring	Broad-banded Swallowtail, Sickle-winged Skipper
(l) <i>Citrus grandis/paradisi</i>	Grape Fruit	Full Sun	Good	Spring	Giant Swallowtail
(l) <i>Citrus spp.</i>	Citrus	Full Sun	Good	Spring	Ornithion Swallowtail, Ruby-spotted Swallowtail
<i>Helietta parvifolia</i>	Baretta	Full Sun	Fair	Sp-Sum	Giant Swallowtail
(l) <i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Common Rue				Giant Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail
<i>Thamnosma texana</i>	Dutchman's breeches	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Black Swallowtail
<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	Colima	Full Sun	Fair	Spring	Ornythion Swallowtail, Thaos Swallowtail Sickle-winged Skipper, Dingy Purplewing

#### Salicaceae - Willow Fammily

<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	Full Sun	Poor	Sp-Sum	Mourning Cloak, Viceroy
--------------------	--------------	----------	------	--------	-------------------------

**Sapindaceae - Soap Berry Family**

<i>Cardiospermum corindum</i>	Tropical Heartseed	Full Sun		All Year	Silver-banded Hairstreak
<i>C. halicacabum</i>	Common Ballon Vine	Full Sun		All Year	Silver-banded Hairstreak, Red-lined Scrub-Hairstreak
<i>Cardiospermum</i> (1) sp.	Balloon Vine	Full Sun		All Year	Common Banner
<i>Serjania brachycarpa</i>	Littlefruit Slipplejack	Shade		Fall, Sum	Common Banner, Glazed Pellicia
<i>Urvillea</i> (1) sp.	Urvillea	Sun-Shade		Sum-Fall	Common Banner

**Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family**

<i>Agalinis heterophylla</i>	Prairie Agalinis	Full Sun		Sp-Summ	Tropical Buckeye
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	Water Hyssop			Sp-Fall	White Peacock
<i>Buchnera floridana</i>	Bluehearts			Sum-Fall	Common Buckeye
<i>Castilleja indivisa</i>	Texas Paintbrush	Full Sun		Spring	Common Buckeye
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Cenizo	Full Sun	Fair	after Rain	Theona Checkerspot
<i>Linaria</i> (1) sp.	Toad Flax	Full Sun		Spring	Common Buckeye
<i>Lindernia</i> (1) sp.	False Pimpernel			Sp-Fall	White Peacock
<i>Maurandya antirrhiniflora</i>	Snapdragon Vine			Sp-Summ	Common Buckeye
<i>Stemodia tomentosa</i>	Woolly Stemodia			Sp-Summ	Tropical Buckeye
<i>Veronica</i> (1) sp.	Necklace Weed			Spring	Common Buckeye

**Simaroubaceae - Quassia Family**

<i>Castela</i> (1) sp.	Goat Bush/Amargoso	Full Sun		Spring	Dina Yellow, Florida White
------------------------	--------------------	----------	--	--------	----------------------------

**Solanaceae - Nightshade Family**

<i>Solanum</i> (5) spp.	Nightshade	Full Sun		All year	Creamy Stripe-Streak, Obscure Bolla
-------------------------	------------	----------	--	----------	-------------------------------------

**Turneraceae - Turnera Family**

<i>Turnera diffusa</i>	Hierba del Venado	Full Sun		All Year	Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary
------------------------	-------------------	----------	--	----------	---

**Verbenaceae - Verbena Family**

<u>Family Contains <b>Many Good Adult Nectar Sources</b></u>					
<i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	White Brush	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Aloysia macrostachya</i>	Sweet Stem	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Sum	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Citharexylum berlandieri</i>	Fiddlewood	Full Sun	Excel	Spring	Adult Nectar Source
<i>Lantana</i> sp.	Lantana	Full Sun	<i>Excel-to-Poor</i> (e)		Use natives, <b>many cultivated varieties have little to no nectar</b>
(l) <i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Lantana Scrub-Hairstrk, Tropical Greenstreak, Red-spotted Hairstrk
<i>Lantana horrida</i>	Texas Lantana	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Painted Lady - Adult Nectar Source
<i>Lantana macropoda</i>	Desert Lantana	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	Gray Hairstreak - Adult Nectar Source
<i>Lippia alba</i>	White Lippia	Full Sun	Good	All Year	White Peacock, Lantana Scrub-Hairstreak (plant prone to spreading)
<i>Lippia graveolens</i>	Scented Lippia	Full Sun	Good	Sp-Fall	White Peacock, Lantana Scrub-Hairstreak
<i>Phyla incisa</i>	Texas Frog Fruit	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	Phaon Crescent, White Peacock, Common Buckeye
<i>Phyla strigulosa</i>	Frog Fruit	Full Sun	Excel	Sp-Fall	White Peacock
<i>Priva lappulacea</i>	Common Velvet Bur	Full Sun		Sp-Fall	Potrillo Skipper
<i>Verbena</i> (13) spp.	Vervain	Full Sun	Good	Sp-varies	Common Buckeye, Theona Checkerspot

**Violaceae - Violet Family**

<i>Hybanthus verticillatus</i>	Green violet	Full sun		All Year	Variegated Fritillary
--------------------------------	--------------	----------	--	----------	-----------------------

**Ulmaceae - Elm Family**

<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugar Hackberry	Full Sun	(sap)	Spring	Eighty-eight Sp. Emperors, Question Mark, American Snout (doubtful: Band-celled Sister)
<i>Celtis pallida</i>	Spiny Hackberry/Granjeno			Spring	American Snout, Red-bordered Metalmark Empress Leilia, Pavon Emperor, Silver Emperor
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Cedar Elm	Full Sun	poor	Sum-Fall	Question Mark

**Urticaceae - Nettle Famile**

<i>Parietaria pensylvanica</i>	Pellitory			Win-Sp	Blomfild's Beauty Red Admiral
<i>Urtica</i> (1) sp.	Nettle			Spring	Red Admiral, Question Mark

**Zygophyllaceae - Caltrop Family**

<i>Guaiacum angustifolia</i>	Guayacan	Full Sun		Sp-Sum	Lyside Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak
------------------------------	----------	----------	--	--------	---------------------------------

(a) Primary Plant References for taxonomy, bloom period, etc.:

\*Richardson, A. 1995. Plants of the Rio Grande Delta. University of Texas Press, Austin. x + 332 pp., 94 pl.

\*Hatch, S.L., K.N. Gandhi & L.E. Brown. 1990. Checklist of the vascular plants of Texas. Texas Agr. Exp. Sta., College Station. MP-1655.

(b) Primary Caterpillar Food Plant References:

\*Numerous papers authored (or co-authored) by Roy O. Kendall, primarily published in the Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society and in the Bulletin of the Allyn Museum. Most of Kendall's foodplant records are accurately listed in the widely available Scott (1986).

\*Scott, J.A. 1986. The Butterflies of North America. Stanford University Press, Stanford. xii + 583 pp., 64 pl.

\*McGuire, W.W. & M.A. Richard. 1974. An annotated checklist of the butterflies of Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State park and vicinity. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Mission. photocopy. pp 1-22. (Available at: [www.naba.org/ftp/bentsen\\_rgsvp.pdf](http://www.naba.org/ftp/bentsen_rgsvp.pdf))

\*Richard W. Boscoe reviewed this list February 2004 and made numerous suggestions that were much appreciated.

(c) Butterfly English names from:

\*NABA Checklist and English Names of North American Butterflies. Second Edition. 2001. Cassie, B. et al.

Available on-line at: [www.naba.org/pubs/enames2.html](http://www.naba.org/pubs/enames2.html)

(d) *Genus* (#) sp. = number of species in that genus present in the Rio Grande Delta, but none specifically recorded as a caterpillar food plant

(e) Horticulturalists have developed many cultivated varieties of *Lantana* and *Buddleia*. These (and other) "cultivars" were bred to have an increased bloom period. Unfortunately, many cultivars produce less nectar than our natives, thus they should be used with great caution.

(l) These species are introduced to the Rio Grande Valley. They are included on this list primarily for informational puposes only.

For more South Texas butterfly information, go to the NABA-South Texas website: [www.naba.org/chapters/nabast/](http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabast/)

Comments or concerns about this list should be addressed to:

Mike Quinn, Invertebrate Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Address: 3000 IH-35 South, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78704, Phone: 512-912-7059