



# NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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## MIDLAND COUNTY (WEST TEXAS)

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

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Bee-brush <i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	to 9'	white	3-12	many	forms a thicket if left alone
A	Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i>	15"	orchid	S-F (entire growing season)	many	easily transplanted when young
N	Chocolate daisy <i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	1'	yellow	S-F (entire growing season)	many	wonderful aroma
N	Paper daisy <i>Psilostrophe villosa</i>	1'	yellow	S-F (entire growing season)	many	easily transplanted when young
N	Rock rose <i>Pavonia</i>	2'	rose	S-F (entire growing season)	many	gorgeous; leaves velvety
N	Threadleaf groundsel <i>Senecio douglasii</i>	2'	yellow	4-9	many	when dry, keep blooms picked for continuous bloom
N	Salvia <i>Salvia greggi</i>	bushy	scarlet	late S-F	many	trim or let grow
N 5	Button-bush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	3-15'	white	6-9	many	blooms are balls w/ protruding stamens
A	Mexican sunflower <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i> , cultivar "Torch"	6'	orange	6-frost	many	
A	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	6-15'	rose, orchid	X-F	many	can be trimmed to keep small
N	Frogfruit <i>Phyla incisa</i>	low	white	X-F	many, including Crescents	good as ground cover
N	Indian blanket <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1'	red-yellow	X-F	many	cultivars have long- er bloom season
N/A	Lantana <i>Lantana</i>	variable	yellow	X-F	many	
N 3	Palmleaf Eupatorium <i>Eupatorium greggi</i>	2'	lavender	X-F	many	blooms earlier than other Eupatoriums

**MIDLAND COUNTY (WEST TEXAS)**

**TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS**

(continued)

	<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>COLOR</b>	<b>BLOOM SEASON</b>	<b>ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
A 1	Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i>	variable	many	X-F	many	plant every few weeks
N 4	Eupatorium <i>Eupatorium</i>	2'	pink-white	F	many	any Eupatorium is great
N	Heath aster <i>Aster ericoides</i>	2'	white	F		
A 2	New England aster <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	3-5'	light purple	F	many	
N	Prairie blazingstar <i>Liatris</i>	2-4'	orchid	F	many	spikes covered with small blooms

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

<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Mexican hat <i>Ratibida columnaris</i>	easily grown but seldom used by butterflies
Morning glory <i>Ipoemea</i>	only observation: Orange-barred Sulphur (rare in this area) nectared on it one day only
Pink penstemon <i>Penstemon ambiguus</i>	showy mounds of flowers, grows well in our sandy soil, but not utilized by butterflies

**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.

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
A	Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i>	15"	Clouded and Orange Sulphurs	Melissa Blue (probably needs a bigger patch of alfalfa)
A	Bermuda grass <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>		Fiery Skipper	
N	Broadleaf milkweed <i>Asclepias latifolia</i>	2'	Monarch	
N	Climbing milkweed <i>Sarcostemma crispum</i>	vine	Queen	

**MIDLAND COUNTY (WEST TEXAS)**

**TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS**

(continued)

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
N	Croton <i>Croton pottsii</i>	8"	Goatweed Leafwing	
N	Cudweed <i>Gnaphalium wrightii</i>	1'	American Lady	
A 2	Dill, parsley, fennel (Parsley family)		Black Swallowtail	
N	Dutchman's breeches <i>Thamnosma texana</i>	6"	Black Swallowtail	interesting seed pods; hence the name
N	Globemallow <i>Sphaeralcea angustifolia</i>	1'	Common Checkered-Skipper	
N 3	Golden crownbeard <i>Verbesina enceloides</i>	1-2'	Bordered Patch	
N	Horsetail milkweed <i>Asclepias subverticillata</i>	3'	Monarch	
A	Kale (Cabbage family)		Cabbage White	
N	Lamb's Quarters <i>Chenopodium album</i>	1'	Common Sootywing	
N	Maximilian sunflower <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	6'	Bordered Patch	
N 1	Passion vine <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	vine	Gulf Fritillary Variegated Fritillary occasionally	needs lots of room to grow and climb
N	Red-flowered milkweed <i>Asclepias brachystephana</i>	1'	Queen	
A	Siberian elm <i>Ulmus pumila</i>	tree	Question Mark	an escape; but elm beetles de- vour foliage; not a good
N 4	Sunflower <i>Helianthus annuus</i>	to 5'	garden variety Bordered Patch	
N	Texas thistle <i>Cirsium texanum</i>	2'	Painted Lady	sharp spines on plant
N	Western peppergrass <i>Lepidium montanum</i>	12-18"	Checkered White Cabbage White	grows well in poor soil

**COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD**

**NAME**

**FLIGHT PERIOD**

Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes*

most seen in spring and summer

## MIDLAND COUNTY (WEST TEXAS)

### COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD
Checkered White <i>Pontia protodice</i>	late spring, summer, fall
Sleepy Orange <i>Eurema nicippe</i>	present all year; most in May-November
Dainty Sulphur <i>Nathalis iole</i>	present all year; most in May-November
Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	April-October
Western Pygmy-Blue <i>Brephidium exile</i>	May-November
Marine Blue <i>Leptotes marina</i>	May-August
Reakirt's Blue <i>Hemiargus isola</i>	May-October
American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>	May-November
Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	May-November
Variiegated Fritillary <i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	May-October
Bordered Patch <i>Chlosyne lacinia</i>	June-October
Vesta Crescent <i>Phyciodes vesta</i>	April-October
Phaon Crescent <i>Phyciodes phaon</i>	June-November
Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	April-October
Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	May-November
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	April-November
Goatweed Leafwing <i>Anaea andria</i>	August-September
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Sept.-October; spring-summer (few)
Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	May-November
Common Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus communis</i>	April-November
Orange Skipperling <i>Copaeodes aurantiacus</i>	June-November
Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	June-November

### LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

NAME	COMMENTS
Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	in alfalfa fields spring-fall
Orange Sulphur <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	in alfalfa fields spring-fall
Southern Dogface <i>Colias cesonia</i>	in alfalfa fields summer-fall
Painted Crescent <i>Phyciodes picta</i>	June-September (no immatures of this species found in area)
Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	fairly common in hackberry groves June-October
Common Streaky-Skipper <i>Celotes nesusus</i>	June-July (no immatures of this species found in area); Indian Mallow ( <i>Abutilon incanum</i> ) <u>may</u> be caterpillar food plant

**MIDLAND COUNTY (WEST TEXAS)**

**LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD**

*(continued)*

**RARE STRAYS FROM SOUTH TEXAS - MOSTLY SEEN IN FALL**

Polydamas Swallowtail *Battus polydamas*

Florida White *Appias drusilla*

White Angled-Sulphur *Anteos chlorinde*

Tailed Orange *Eurema proterpia*

Great Purple Hairstreak *Atlides halesus*

Mexican Silverspot *Dione moneta*

Julia *Dryas iulia*

Zebra *Heliconius charitonus*

Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*

Ocola Skipper *Panoquina ocola*

Violet-banded Skipper *Nyctelius nyctelius*

**GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION**

**USDA ZONE: 7**

Soils are sand, clay, and limestone. The land is flat except for two dry lake beds and several draws, also playas that hold water when it rains. The average annual rainfall is 14 inches; only 8 inches in 1996. It is generally dry and hot, with strong winds especially in spring. When spring rains follow winter moisture, wildflowers are abundant, making good butterfly habitat. Much of Midland County is farmland, also ranches, so we have many farm-to-market roadsides to explore.

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