



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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NAPLES AREA (SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA)

by Elizabeth Smith

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

Numbers in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the month (4=April, 5=May, etc.). Abbreviations: A=alien species, N=native species.

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
A/N Blue porterweed N <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i> , A <i>Stachytarpheta utricifolia</i>	1-2'	blue	1-12	Whites, Julia, Gulf Fritillary, Buckeyes, Skippers	"good" in some yards, "best" in others
N Cassia <i>Cassia</i>	6-7'	yellow	1-12	Sulphurs, especially Orange-barred & Large Orange	
N Coral honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	vine	red/orange	1-12	Giant Swallowtail, Zebra	blooms profusely in spring
N Creeping Charlie <i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	2-4"	white	1-12	Buckeyes, White Peacock	
N Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	15'	red/orange	1-12	Swallowtails, Sulphurs Whites, Gulf Fritillary Zebra, Julia, Buckeyes Long-tailed Skipper	sensitive to freezes; blooms profusely in summer; Marco "fair"/Naples "best"
A/N Lantana <i>Lantana</i>	1-2'	yellow, bright red	1-12	various	Marco: "good"
N Mist flower <i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	1-2'	lavender	1-12	Buckeyes Soldier ("very attracted" to this in Marco)	
N Pentas <i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	2'	red	1-12	various	Marco: "good" Naples: "best"
N Scarlet milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2-3'	red/orange	1-12	Monarch and many others	Marco: "best"
N Tropical sage <i>Salvia coccinea</i>	1-4'	red	1-12	various in passing better in sun	Marco "very good" Naples depends,
N Lignum vitae <i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	5'	lavender	3-5	various	Marco: "fair" (may pruned to shape)
N White milkweed <i>Asclepias perennis</i>		white	4-10	Queen	
N Climbing aster <i>Aster carolinianus</i>	10'	lavender	8-11	various in passing	also attracts bees; vine-like growth

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Ironweed <i>Vernonia</i>	6-8'	lavender	8-11	Blues, Long-tailed Skipper	prune back after bloom;attracts bees
N	Beach verbena <i>Verbena</i>		lavender		Black Swallowtail Buckeyes	
N	Gaillardia <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1'	yellow & red		various	Marco: "fair"
N	Golden dewdrop <i>Duranta repens</i>	5'	lavender		Gulf Fritillary, Zebra	
A	Persian lime <i>Citrus</i>		white		Gulf Fritillary, Zebra	
N	Scarlet hibiscus <i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	3-10'	red		Whites	
N	Stokes aster <i>Stokesia laevis</i>		lavender		various in passing	
N	Wild coffee <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	4'	white		various in passing	

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

	FLOWER	COMMENTS
N	Beach sunflower <i>Helianthus debilis</i>	
N	Ruellia <i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i> ?Supposed to be larval food for White Peacock, but no luck so far.	

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

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

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N	Cassia <i>Cassia ligustrum</i>	4-6'	Large Sulphurs (<i>Phoebis</i>)	shrubs not long-lived but re-seed
N	Corky-stemmed passionflower <i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	vine	Zebra, Julia	grows well without much care
A	Dill and fennel (to 5'), parsley (to 6") members of Parsley Family		Black Swallowtail	fennel is salt and wind tolerant

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TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
A	Scarlet milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2'	Monarch, Queen	cut back leggy growth
A	Pipevine <i>Aristolochia elegans</i> (vine)	4-5'	Pipevine Swallowtail Polydamas Swallowtail	grows well without much care
N	Wild lime (lime prickly-ash) <i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	to 30'	Giant Swallowtail	a shrub or small tree

COMMON 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
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	1-12	most seen in summer-fall	Pipevine (<i>Aristolochia</i>)	occasional
Polydamas Swallowtail <i>Battus polydamas</i>	1-12	most seen in summer-fall	Pipevine (<i>Aristolochia</i>)	occasional
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	1-12		fennel and others in parsley family	common
Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	1-12		Wild lime, citrus	common
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	1-12	most seen in summer-fall	Privet senna (<i>Cassia</i>)	common
Orange-barred Sulphur <i>Phoebis philea</i>	1-12	most seen in summer-fall	Privet senna (<i>Cassia</i>)	common
Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	1-12	most seen in summer-fall	Passionvine (<i>Passiflora</i>)	common
Zebra <i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	1-12	most seen in summer-fall	Passionvine (<i>Passiflora</i>)	common
Julia <i>Dryas iulia</i>	1-12	most seen in summer-fall	Passionvine (<i>Passiflora</i>)	common
Common and Mangrove Buckeyes <i>Junonia coenia</i> and <i>evarete</i>	1-12			occasional
White Peacock <i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	1-12		water hyssop (<i>Bacopa</i>)	common
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	1-12		milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i>)	Marco: common
Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	1-12		members of pea (legume) family	common

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LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Speculation on this would include:

Zebra Swallowtail *Eurytides marcellus*

Spicebush Swallowtail *Papilio troilus*

Atala *Eumaeus atala* (the populations along the east coast of southern Florida are coming back!)

Malachite *Siproeta stelenes*

Mangrove Skipper *Phocides pigmalion*

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 10

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