



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

by Jaret Daniels and Thomas Emmel (drawings by Elizabeth Smith)

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

A number in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Codes in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the season (S = Spring, X = Summer, F=Fall), with < meaning earlier in the season and > later in the season. Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Red-bud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	25'	pink	S	many, especially species in Gossamer Wing family	
N	Cardinal flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	2-4'	red	S-X	many	
N	Indian blanket <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1-3'	orange	S-X	many	
N	Mist flower <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	1-2'	blue	S-X	many	
N	Moss verbena <i>Glandularia</i>	8-12"	various	S-X	many	
A 10	Phlox <i>Phlox drummondii</i>	2-3'	various	S-X	many	
N	Sandhill milkweed <i>Asclepias humistrata</i>	1'	pink	S-X	many	
A	Society garlic <i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	1-3'	pink/ purple	S-X	many	
N	Tropical sage <i>Salvia coccinea</i>	2-3'	red	S-X	many	
N	Blazingstar <i>Liatris</i>	2-5'	pink	S-F	many	many native species
A 3	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	15'	various	S-F	many	
A 9	Glossy abelia <i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	6-15'	pink	S-F	many	
N 7	Verbena <i>Verbena braziliensis</i>	3-6'	purple	S-F	many	
N 2	Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	15'	orange	S-frost	many	
A	Golden dewdrop <i>Duranta repens</i>	10'	blue/	S-frost	many	

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
A	Heliotrope <i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	1-2'	purple	S-frost	many	
A 1	Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	2'	orange, yellow	S-frost	many	
N 1	Lantana <i>Lantana keyensis</i>	2'	purple/ white	S-frost	many	
A 1	Pentas <i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	2-4'	red,pink, white	S-frost	many	
A 4	Porterweed <i>Stachytarphata jamaicensis</i>	2-4'	blue	S-frost	many	
A	Mexican milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2-4'	orange	S-frost	many	
N	Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	1-3'	orange	>S	many	
N	Button bush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	10'	white	X	many	
A	Chaste tree <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	15'	lavender	X	many	
N	Joe-pye-weed <i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	4-7'	purple/ pink	X	many	
A	Phlox <i>Phlox paniculata</i>	3-4'	various	X	many	
N 6	Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i>	3-6'	yellow	S-X	many	Grow native species (many kinds)
N	Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	2-4'	pink	X-F	many	
A 8	Cypress-vine <i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i>	vine	red	X-frost	many	
A 5	Fire spike <i>Odontonema strictum</i>	2-4'	red	X-frost	many	
N	Ironweed <i>Vernonia</i>	3-6'	purple	>X	many	
N	Climbing aster <i>Aster carolinianus</i>	vine	pink	all year	many	

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

(continued)

FLOWER	COMMENTS
Most daisies, fleabanes, goldenrods	Spring and summer nights are too hot for these northern-acclimated flowers (e.g., <i>Aster</i> , <i>Chrysanthemum</i>).
Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i>	Do not grow non-native northern varieties.
Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Does not grow well, nor is very attractive to butterflies.
Wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Difficult to grow; not a reliable bloomer.

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

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

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
A Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i>	2'	Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur	
N Black cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	100'	Tiger Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple	
A Cabbage <i>Brassica oleracea</i>	1'	Cabbage White	
A Carrot <i>Daucus carota</i>	1'	Black Swallowtail	
A Cassia <i>Cassia bicapsularis</i>	2-10'	Cloudless Sulphur, Orange-barred Sulphur	
A Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	3-5'	Black Swallowtail	
N Frogfruit <i>Lippia nodiflora</i>	<6"	Phaon Crescent, White Peacock	
N Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	60'	American Snout, Question Mark, Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor	
N Hercules club <i>Zanthoxylum clava-hercules</i>	15'	Giant Swallowtail	
A Mexican milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2-5'	Monarch, Queen	
A Mustard <i>Brassica juncea</i>	2'	Cabbage White	
N Passionvine <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	vine	Zebra, Gulf Fritillary	
N Pawpaw <i>Asimina</i>	2-10'	Zebra Swallowtail	many species of pawpaw
N Peppergrass <i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	2-3'	Cabbage White, Checkered White, Great Southern White	
N Red bay <i>Persea borbonia</i>	25'	Palamedes Swallowtail	

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N	Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	90'	Spicebush Swallowtail	
N	Willow <i>Salix</i>	10-12'	Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy	wet or boggy soils best
N	Woolly pipevine <i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>	vine	Pipevine Swallowtail	

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Codes in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	S-F	S-F	pipevine (<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>)
Zebra Swallowtail <i>Eurytides marcellus</i>	S-F	S, F	pawpaw (<i>Asimina</i>)
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	S-F	S-F	carrot, dill, fennel, and related
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	S-F	S-F	wild cherry (<i>Prunus</i>), sweet bay (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)
Palamedes Swallowtail <i>Papilio palamedes</i>	S-F	S-F	red bay (<i>Persea borbonia</i>)
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	S-F	S-F	cassia (<i>Cassia</i>)
Great Purple Hairstreak <i>Atlides halesus</i>	S-F	S-F	mistletoe (<i>Phoradendron</i>)
Red-banded Hairstreak <i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	S-F	S-F	southern bayberry (<i>Myrica cerifera</i>), sumac (<i>Rhus</i>)
Zebra <i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	S-frost	yearround	passionvine (<i>Passiflora</i>)
Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	S-frost	yearround	passionvine (<i>Passiflora</i>)
Phaon Crescent <i>Phyciodes phaon</i>	S-F	S-F	frogfruit (<i>Lippia nodiflora</i>)
Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	S-F	S-F	plantain (<i>Plantago</i>), false foxglove (<i>Agalinus</i>)
Red-spotted Purple <i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	S-F	S-F	black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)
Viceroy <i>Limenitis archippus</i>	S-F	S-F	willow (<i>Salix</i>)

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	S, F	S, F	milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i>)	
Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	S-F	S-F	tick trefoil (<i>Desmodium</i>)	

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

Codes in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall).

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Southern Dogface <i>Colias cesonja</i>	S-F	S-F	prairie-clover (<i>Petalostemum</i>)	
Orange-barred Sulphur <i>Phoebis philea</i>	F	F	cassia (<i>Cassia</i>)	typically makes it north up to this region late in year
Goatweed Butterfly <i>Anaea andria</i>	S-F	S-F	croton (<i>Croton</i>)	

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 8

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