



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 tel. 973-285-0907 fax 973-285-0936

SARASOTA AREA (SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA)

by Kathleen Brunson

with assistance from Catherine & Richard Lebrie and Marvin & Marilyn Keyser

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

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

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES
N	Blue porterweed <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	5'	blue	all year	many
N	Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	6'+	red	all year	Zebra, Gulf Fritillary
N/A	Lantana <i>Lantana</i>	2-4'	various	all year	many
A	False heather <i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	shrub	lavender	all year	Polydamas Swallowtail, some Skippers
A	Citrus <i>Citrus</i>	shrub/ tree		spring- summer	Giant Swallowtail
A	Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia</i>	4'	purple	spring-fall	Giant Swallowtail, Skippers
A	Pentas <i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	3'	various	spring-fall	many
N/A	Salvia (sage) <i>Salvia</i>	2'	blue	spring-fall	many
A	Scarlet milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	3'	red	spring-fall	Swallowtails, Monarch
N	Senna <i>Cassia</i>	5'	yellow	spring-fall	Cloudless and Orange-barred Sulphurs Sleepy Orange
N	Verbena <i>Verbena</i>	18"	various	spring-fall	Zebra
A	Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i>	3-12"	various	spring-fall	many
A	Ageratum <i>Ageratum</i>	1-2'	blue		many

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
none to mention	

SARASOTA AREA (SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA)

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

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

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
A	Citrus <i>Citrus</i>	shrub/ tree	Giant Swallowtail	
N	Dutchman's pipe <i>Aristolochia macrophylla, elegans</i>	vine	Pipevine Swallowtail	
N	False nettles <i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	3'	Red Admiral	Polydamas Swallowtail grow in wet areas
A	Parsley, dill, fennel <i>Carrot family</i>	6"-3'	Black Swallowtail	
N	Passionvine <i>Passiflora</i>	vine	Gulf Fritillary, Zebra, Julia	
N	Red bay <i>Persia borbonica</i>	tree	Spicebush and Palamedes Swallowtails	likes wet areas
A	Scarlet milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	4'	Monarch, Queen	have tried northern milkweed but it doesn't grow here
N	Senna <i>Cassia chapmanii</i>	5'+	Cloudless and Orange-barred Sulphurs Sleepy Orange, Little Yellow	

COMMON 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	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	all year	most seen in 2-11	pipevine
Polydamas Swallowtail <i>Battus polydamas</i>			pipevine
Zebra Swallowtail <i>Eurytides marcellus</i>			pawpaw
Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	all year	all year	carrot, parsley, fennel, dill
Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	all year	all year	members of citrus family
Palamedes Swallowtail <i>Papilio palamedes</i>			red bay, sweet bay, sassafras
Clouded Sulphur <i>Colias philodice</i>	all year	all year	herbaceous plants in the clover (legume) family

SARASOTA AREA (SOUTHWESTERN FLORIDA)

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD		CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
	PERIOD	SEASON	SEASON	
Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	all year	all year		Sennas (<i>Cassia</i>)
Orange-barred Sulphur <i>Phoebis philea</i>	all year	all year		Sennas (<i>Cassia</i>)
Little Yellow <i>Eurema lisa</i>	all year	all year		Sennas, partridge pea, clover
3 Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	all year	most seen in		Passion vine (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)
2 Zebra <i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	all year	most seen in	11	Passion vine (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)
White Peacock <i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	6-11	6-11		Capeweed (<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>)
Viceroy <i>Limenitis archippus</i>	spring-summer			willows
1 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	all year	most seen in	11-5	Milkweeds, especially scarlet (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>)
Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	all year			Milkweeds, especially scarlet (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>)
Long-tailed Skipper, Dorantes Longtail <i>Urbanus proteus, dorantes</i>	5-11	5-11		legumes (bean family)

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD		CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS
	PERIOD	SEASON	SEASON	
Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>				thistles, composites, mallows
Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				nettles, false nettles
Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>				plantain, snapdragons

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 10

The soil is sandy, requiring chemical additives or compost to enrich it, on flat land close to sea level, with a tropical to subtropical climate. The gardening season is year round.

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