



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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SOUTHERN LOUISIANA

by Gary Noel Ross and Frances Welden

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

FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
A Shepherd's-needle <i>Bidens pilosa</i>	2-3'	white	1-12	Sulphurs, Crescents, Skippers	annual/perennial; reseeds; frost tolerant
A Crimson clover <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	short	red	2-4	Sulphurs	great ground cover; annual
N Blackberry <i>Rubus</i>	2-5'	white	3-4	Sulphurs, Monarch	perennial
N Parsley hawthorn <i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	4-15'	white	3-4	Elfins, Hairstreaks	small tree
N Plum <i>Prunus</i>	20-30'	white	3-4	Elfins, Hairstreaks	small tree
N Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	10-30'	pink	3-4	Elfins; favorite of Henry's Elfin	small tree
A Spiraea <i>Spiraea</i>	1-4'	white	3-4	Hairstreaks, Brush-foots	perennial
2 N Thistle <i>Cirsium</i>	3-5'	pink	3-4	All	
N Vetch <i>Vicia</i>	1-2'	blue	3-5	Sulphurs	invasive; annual
N Viburnum <i>Viburnum</i>	2-6'	white	4	Brush-foots	perennial; caterpil- lar food plant for Spring Azure
1 N Wild azalea <i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	2-6'	pink	4	Swallowtails	perennial
A Privet <i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	2-10'	white	4-5	Elfins, Hairstreaks	shrub
N Indian blanket <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	1-2'	yellow & red	4-7	Sulphurs, Hairstreaks, Skippers	subject to mold; annual
2 N Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	1-3'	pink	4-8	All	subject to mold; perennial; cater- pillar food plant for Silvery Checkerspot
1 A Mexican flame vine <i>Senecio confusus</i>	vine	orange	4-12	All	subject to frost damage

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SOUTHERN LOUISIANA

TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
	N Stokes Aster, Cornflower <i>Stokesia laevis</i>	short	blue	5-7	Swallowtail, Sulphurs, Brush-foots, Skippers	perennial
2	N Wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2-3'	lavender	5-7	All	subject to mold; invasive; perennial
1	A Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i>	short	many	5-10	All	single varieties and "Profusion" best; annual
2	A Marigold <i>Tagetes</i>	short	yellow/ orange	5-11	Small butterflies	single varieties work best; annual
1	A Porterweed <i>Stachytarpheta</i>	3-5'	blue, coral	5-11	All	continual bloom; perennial but cold sensitive
	A Globe amaranth <i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	1-2'	purple	5-11	Common Buckeye, skippers	long-blooming
1	A Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	2'	yellow & orange	5-12	All	perennial; "new Gold", "Gold Mound", "Silver Mound", "Son Rise" are best varieties
1	A Pentas <i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	2'	red	5-12	All	annual
1	A Trailing lantana <i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	vine	purple	5-12	All	best in fall; perennial
1	A Vervain <i>Verbena</i>	2-3'	many	5-12	Swallowtails, Brush-foots	"Homestead Purple" best; spring annual
2	N Mountain mint <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium, incanum, muticum</i>	1-3'	white	6-7	All	subject to mold; perennial
1	N Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6-15'	white	6-8	Swallowtails	small tree; dies back in winter
	N Summer phlox <i>Phlox paniculata</i>	2-4'	purple	6-8	Swallowtails	subject to mold; perennial
2	A Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	4-7'	white, lavender, yellow	6-9	All	subject to molds; perennial
1	A Mexican sunflower <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	3-6'	orange	6-9	All	moldy in late sum- mer; requires support

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TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

(continued)

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	2-3'	yellow	6-10	Brush-foots	subject to molds; perennial
2	A Firebush <i>Hamelia patens</i>	3-5'	red	6-10	All	freeze sensitive
A	Flowering tobacco <i>Nicotiana sylvestris</i>	1-3'	white, red	6-10	All	tall varieties best; annual
1	A Mexican milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2-4'	yellow & red	6-12	All	blooms until frost; perennial/annual;
1	N Blazing-star <i>Liatris</i>	2-3'	pink	7-9	All; particularly Swallowtails, Sulphurs (especially Cloudless Sulphur)	perennial
1	N Cardinal flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	2-4'	red	7-9	Sulphurs; great for Cloudless Sulphur	perennial
N	Sunflower <i>Helianthus</i>	2-6'	yellow	7-11	All	best in fall; reseeds
N	Shining sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>	10-35'	greenish white	8-9	Swallowtails, Hairstreaks	subject to mold; small tree
1	N Aster <i>Aster</i>	1-3'	blue/white	8-10	All; especially Monarch	
N	Eastern baccharis <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	4-7'	white	8-10	Hairstreaks; great for Great Purple Hairstreak, Monarch	perennial
1	N Ironweed <i>Vernonia</i>	3-5'	purple	8-10	All	perennial
2	N Joe-pye weed <i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	3-5'	pink	8-10	All	perennial
2	N Partridge pea <i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	1-2'	yellow	8-10	Sulphurs	perennial
N	Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i>	1-3'	yellow	9-11	All; especially Painted Lady and Monarch	
1	N Mist-flower <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	2-4'	blue	9-12	All	perennial; invasive

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

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

FLOWER	COMMENTS
A Bottlebrush <i>Melaleuca</i>	good for hummingbirds, but not butterflies
N Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	does poorly because of moist soils and warm climate
A Camellia <i>Camellia</i>	many cultivars, but none attractive to butterflies
A Chaste tree <i>Vitex</i>	blooms well, but attractive only to small grass skippers

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NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

(continued)

FLOWER	COMMENTS
A Daylilies <i>Hemerocallis</i>	many cultivars, but none attractive to butterflies
A Indian hawthorn <i>Raphiolepis indica</i>	perennial; good bloomer, but not attractive to butterflies
A/N Iris <i>Iris</i>	perennial flowering in spring; not attractive to butterflies
A Japanese azalea <i>Azalea</i>	only marginally attractive to Cloudless Sulphur
A Pansy <i>Viola</i>	annual in winter and spring, not attractive to butterflies
A Petunia <i>Petunia</i>	blooms well in spring, but unattractive to butterflies
A Queen Anne's lace <i>Daucus carota</i>	does poorly because of moist soils and warm climate
A Texas star hibiscus <i>Hibiscus coccinea</i>	marginally attractive; frost sensitive
N Yarrow <i>Achillea</i>	marginally attractive annual

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.

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N American hornbeam <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20-40'	Eastern Comma, Red-spotted Purple	invasive (by seed); tree
N Ash <i>Fraxinus</i>	40-80'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	good landscape tree
2 N Aster <i>Aster</i>	1-3'	Pearl Crescent	fall bloomer; perennial
1 N Black cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	50-60'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple	good for silk moths; tree
1 A Camphor tree <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	20-50'	Spicebush Swallowtail	evergreen but killed back by hard freezes; can be pruned
1 A Candelabra plant <i>Cassia alata</i>	5-8'	Cloudless Sulphur	fall-blooming annual shrub; needs space; cold sensitive
1 A Cassia tree <i>Cassia bicapsularis</i>	6-12'	Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Little Yellow	blooms in fall; hardy
1 A Cassia tree <i>Cassia corymbosa</i>	6-12'	Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Little Yellow	blooms in summer/fall; hardy
A Citrus, esp. grapefruit <i>Citrus</i>	10-30'	Giant Swallowtail	freeze sensitive
A Crimson clover <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	short	Orange Sulphur, Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Gray Hairstreak	spring bloomer; annual
N Croton <i>Croton</i>	short	Gray Hairstreak, Goatweed Leafwing	invasive; perennial
1 A Dill <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	2-4'	Black Swallowtail	fennel grows better; annual
1 N Elm <i>Ulmus</i>	60-100'	Question Mark, Eastern Comma	many varieties

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TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
1 N False nettle <i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	2-5'	Red Admiral	non-stinging perennial; shade tolerant
1 A Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	2-4'	Black Swallowtail	bronze variety best; perennial
A Flowering kale <i>Brassica</i>	1-2'	Cabbage White	winter and spring only
1 A Fountain/coral plant <i>Russelia equisetiformis</i>	1-3'	Common Buckeye	common in gardens in New Orleans; perennial
1 N Hackberry (sugarberry) <i>Celtis</i>	30-50'	American Snout, Question Mark, Hackberry & Tawny Emperors	invasive tree
A Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus</i>	1-4'	Gray Hairstreak, Common Checkered-Skipper	soft-leaved varieties are best
1 A Hyacinth bean <i>Dolichos lablab</i>	vine	Silver-spotted Skipper, Long-tailed Skipper	rapid grower, attractive for fences
1 N Mallow <i>Malva, Sida</i>	2-5'	Common Checkered-Skipper	perennial; invasive
1 A Mexican milkweed <i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	2-4'	Monarch	favorite milkweed for gardens; annual/perennial
A Nasturtium <i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	short	Cabbage White	spring and early summer
1 N Oak <i>Quercus</i>	50-100'	Red-banded, White M & Gray Hair-streaks; Juvenal's & Horace's Duskywing	abundant shade trees
2 A Ornamental cabbage <i>Brassica</i>	short	Cabbage White	winter and spring only
1 A Parsley <i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	6-12"	Black Swallowtail	all-time favorite; annual
2 N Partridge pea <i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	1-3'	Orange & Cloudless Sulphurs, Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange	showy fall bloomer; perennial
1 N/A Passion flower, maypop <i>Passiflora incarnata, caerulea</i>	vine	Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary	blue varieties work best; perennial; invasive
1 N Pawpaw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	20-40'	Zebra Swallowtail	only north of Lake Pontchartrain in well-drained sites
2 N Pink foxglove <i>Agalinis fasciculata</i>	2'	Common Buckeye	found in pine tree habitat north of Lake Pontchartrain
2 N/A Pipevine <i>Aristolochia</i>	vine	Pipevine Swallowtail	freeze sensitive; perennial
2 N Plantain <i>Plantago</i>	short	Common Buckeye	several species suitable
2 N Prickly ash <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	10-25'	Giant Swallowtail	drops leaves in late summer;
1 N Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	20-40'	Spicebush Swallowtail	all-time favorite; medium-size tree

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TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N Shining sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>	6-20'	Red-banded Hairstreak	not often used in garden but should be
A Snapdragon <i>Antirrhinum</i>	1-3'	Common Buckeye	spring annual
A Snapdragon vine <i>Maurandya antirrhiniflora</i>	vine	Common Buckeye	not easily available at nurseries
N Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	10-20'	Spicebush Swallowtail	becoming increasingly available at nurseries
2 N Sunflower <i>Helianthus</i>	2-6'	Pearl Crescent	many varieties, but most subject to mold
2 N Swamp red bay <i>Persea palustris</i>	5-20'	Palamedes Swallowtail	butterfly only occasionally in gardens
A Sweet alyssum, purple <i>Lobularia maritima</i>	short	Cabbage White	annual
A Texas star hibiscus <i>Hibiscus coccinea</i>	3-7'	Gray Hairstreak, Common Checkered-Skipper	annual
N Thistle <i>Cirsium</i>	3-5'	Painted Lady	invasive annual; spring bloom
2 N Toadflax <i>Linaria canadensis</i>	short	Common Buckeye	invasive; blooms all summer
1 N Tulip poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	60-80'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail	excellent landscape tree; fast growing
2 N Vetch <i>Vicia</i>	low vine	Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Eastern Tailed-Blue	invasive annual; spring bloom
1 N/A Violet <i>Viola</i>	short	Variegated Fritillary	spring bloomer, but leaves all summer and fall
2 N Wax myrtle <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	20-40'	Red-banded Hairstreak	common, invasive, good for birds in fall; evergreen shrub
1 N Willow <i>Salix</i>	10-40'	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy	common, fast-growing tree
1 A Wisteria <i>Wisteria</i>	vine	Silver-spotted & Long-tailed Skippers	attractive spring bloomer; perennial; invasive

SOUTHERN LOUISIANA

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

A number in front of a butterfly name indicates a particularly likely species (1 = most expected to be seen). 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
1 Black Swallowtail <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	3-11	3-11	fennel, parsley, dill, Queen Anne's lace	more common in spring
1 Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	3-11	3-11	citrus, prickly ash	caterpillar can be pest
1 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio glaucus</i>	3-11	3-11	tulip poplar, willow, cherry, ash	high flyer but des- cends into gardens
1 Spicebush Swallowtail <i>Papilio troilus</i>	2-11	3-10	camphor, sassafras, tulip poplar, spicebush	"cute" caterpillar
2 Orange Sulphur <i>Colias eurytheme</i>	2-10	2-8	red clover, partridge pea	common resident, mainly in spring
1 Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	1-12	3-10	candelabra plant, partridge pea	common all year
2 Little Yellow <i>Eurema lisa</i>	1-12	2-11	red clover, vetch, partridge pea	more common in fall
2 Sleepy Orange <i>Eurema nicippe</i>	1-12	2-11	red clover, vetch, partridge pea	more common in fall
2 Gray Hairstreak <i>Strymon melinus</i>	3-11	4-10	croton, red clover, hibiscus, oak	common resident
1 Red-banded Hairstreak <i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	2-11	3-10	sumac, wax myrtle, oak	first brood very early in spring
2 American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>	3-11	4-9	hackberry	likes to puddle
1 Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	3-11	4-11	passion vine	abundant resident
2 Variegated Fritillary <i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	3-11	4-11	violets, passion vine	common resident
2 Pearl Crescent <i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	1-12	4-11	sunflower, aster	often abundant
2 Question Mark <i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	3-11	3-10	elm, hackberry, nettle	likes sap, ferment- ing fruit; hibernates
2 American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	3-11	3-10	everlastings and other composites	common resident, mainly in spring
2 Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	1-12	3-11	nettle	hibernates
1 Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	1-12	3-11	snapdragon, snap- dragon vine, foun- tain plant	abundant resident, rests on ground
2 Red-spotted Purple <i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	3-11	4-10	willow, cherry, hornbeam	near willows; feeds on fruit
2 Viceroy <i>Limenitis archippus</i>	3-11	4-10	willow	common resident near willows

SOUTHERN LOUISIANA

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
1 Hackberry Emperor <i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	3-11	4-10	hackberry	near hackberry; feeds on fruit
2 Tawny Emperor <i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	3-11	4-10	hackberry	near hackberry; feeds on fruit
1 Carolina Satyr <i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>	1-12	3-10	grasses	abundant resident even in lawns
1 Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	2-11	2-11	Mexican milkweed & other milkweeds	common in spring & fall, scarce in summer
1 Juvenal's Duskywing <i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	3-6	3-4	oak	common resident in spring
1 Horace's Duskywing <i>Erynnis horatius</i>	3-11	5-8	oak	common resident in summer & fall
1 Silver-spotted Skipper <i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	4-11	5-10	wisteria	common resident, sometimes abundant
1 Common Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus communis</i>	3-11	4-10	mallow, hibiscus	common resident in waste places
1 Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	2-11	5-10	grasses	abundant resident
1 Whirlabout <i>Polites vibex</i>	7-10	7-9	grasses	occasionally common
1 Ocola Skipper <i>Panoquina ocola</i>	4-11	6-11	grasses, rice	pest in rice fields

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

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NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	4-11	5-10	pipevine	occasional resident
Zebra Swallowtail <i>Eurytides marcellus</i>	3-9	4-7	pawpaw	limited to elevated areas with pawpaw
Palamedes Swallowtail <i>Papilio palamedes</i>	3-11	3-11	swamp red bay	nectars on lantana and liatris
Cabbage White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	4-6	4-5	nasturtium, orna- mental cabbage, kale	more common in past
Great Southern White <i>Ascia monuste</i>	4-10	5-9	nasturtium, cleome	resident in extreme south, visitor to New Orleans, Baton Rouge

SOUTHERN LOUISIANA

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Great Purple Hairstreak <i>Atlides halesus</i>	6-10	7-8	mistletoe	likes to mudpuddle
Cassius Blue <i>Leptotes cassius</i>	7-9		plumbago	occasional colonist in New Orleans
Phaon Crescent <i>Phyciodes phaon</i>	6-10	6-9	fogfruit (<i>Lippia</i>)	occasionally abundant on levees in New Orleans
'Seminole' Texan Crescent <i>Phyciodes texana seminole</i>	4-11	5-9	Acanthus species, esp. shrimp plant and King's crown	sporadic in shaded neighborhoods
Eastern Comma <i>Polygonia comma</i>	3-10	3-10	elm, nettle, hornbeam	uncommon resident
Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	1-11	2-10	willow	sporadic
Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	3-11	3-10	thistle, nettle	mostly in fall
Goatweed Leafwing <i>Anaea andria</i>	3-10		croton	
Long-tailed Skipper <i>Urbanus proteus</i>	8-10	8-9	wisteria, hyacinth bean, false indigo	sporadic
Clouded Skipper <i>Lerema accius</i>	6-10	7-9	Johnson grass	occasionally common in New Orleans
Southern Skipperling <i>Copaeodes minimus</i>	7-9	7-9	Bermuda grass	occasionally common in New Orleans
Brazilian Skipper <i>Calpododes ethlius</i>	5-10	6-9	canna lilies	more common in New Orleans and extreme south

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: lower 8, upper 9

Because of south Louisiana's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and the lower Mississippi River, the climate is mild, even subtropical, and summer nighttime temperatures rarely fall below 75° F. The topography is low (New Orleans is largely below sea level), compromising drainage. The soils are mainly heavy clays and alluvium, again interfering with drainage. Rainfall is relatively heavy (usually between 55-62 inches annually) and relative humidity generally high (60-100%). Air circulation during the summer is very poor, leading to proliferation of fungi, including molds and rusts that attack plants and insects. Finally, the growth of weeds can be rampant. Many plants that do well just 100 miles farther north (e.g., butterfly weed, purple coneflower, liatris, rue) do not thrive in the southern 1/3 of the state. On the bright side, the mild winter temperatures permit extended flight seasons for many butterflies, often from March into November and December.

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

(continued)

Flowerbeds should be located away from sizable trees to circumvent invasion by tree roots, which compact the bed, and should be elevated at least 8-12 inches to permit adequate drainage and discourage invasion of weeds. The native soil must be amended with sand, river silt, and organics (pine bark mulch, peat). After planting, the garden should be mulched (pine straw works well), not only to slow evaporation but also to discourage weeds. An automatic sprinkler system is useful to guarantee adequate water during droughts (often in May and October).

In New Orleans, where garden space is limited, trees present a problem. Many folks opt for flowering annuals, low-growing perennials, and small trees trimmed periodically for both nectar and new growth for caterpillars. Because New Orleans' gardens are often walled, winter temperatures are ameliorated, and tropical and semi-tropical plants (e.g., acanthus, citrus, lantana, Mexican milkweed, pentas) can grow as evergreen perennials. Many gardeners also periodically and severely trim their host trees to keep them from overpowering confined areas. Once Gulf Fritillary and Variegated Fritillary locate their caterpillar food plants (*Passiflora incarnata*, the native species, is more hardy and luxuriant, but *P. caerulea*, with its delicate foliage, seems to be preferred), they tend to remain within the vicinity for practically their entire life span. The top three nectar flowers are lantana, pentas, and porterweed. The tall variety of lantana, 'Son Rise', can't be beat, but needs space and trimming back each winter. Pentas don't require much winter prune-back in New Orleans.

Platforms of fermenting fruit work but need to be suspended or surrounded by a water moat to protect from ants. Cleaning every other day controls mold. Hibernation boxes do not work and often become homes for predatory paper wasps.

Aphids on host plants, particularly Mexican milkweed, are often a problem. Safer's Insecticidal Soap works well. Other invertebrate predators of caterpillars, such as wasps, assassin bugs, and ambush bugs, can be discouraged by daily patrols to remove them by hand (gloved, of course). Removing sources of contained water seems to have no impact on dragonflies, which are predators of small butterflies; to date, there is no known adequate solution but to learn to tolerate and enjoy them!

Since the late 1990s, two tropical species have been fairly regular in southern Louisiana. The Cassius Blue appears in several locations in metro New Orleans every 2-3 years. It was most likely transported here on nursery stock from Florida on blue-flowering plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*), its caterpillar food plant. The Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*) has been observed occasionally in several southern parishes. The common and native passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) is its caterpillar food plant, but most winters are a bit too harsh for the butterfly to survive. The source of this Heliconian may be butterfly releases or occasional colonization. Occasionally other tropical butterflies, such as White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*) and Large Orange Sulphur (*Phoebis agarithe*), appear. These strays are probably blown in by tropical storms. Because southern Louisiana is borderline semitropical and global warming seems increasingly evident, the region is primed to gain additional butterfly visitors and even residents.

Gardeners in south Louisiana can aid the relatively rare 'Seminole' Texan Crescent, a denizen of swamps, rapidly being drained for development. In nature, the butterfly uses the semi-aquatic waterwillow (*Justicia ovata* var. *lanceolata*) as caterpillar food, but readily adapts to other exotic acanthus species such as King's crown (*Dicliptera suberecta*), Brazilian plume (*Jacobinia carnea*), and shrimp plant (*Beloperone guttata*) in flowerbeds near wetlands.

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