

# NECTAR PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are not appreciative of what we consider aesthetic plantings in our gardens. They don't mind that every plant is not perfect or perfectly placed. What we consider weedy fields, many butterflies consider a gourmet buffet. Butterfly needs are simple. They prefer simple flowers and those that grow in clusters. Many with no fragrance to us are quite attractive to them. Butterflies are solar powered—plant in the sun as much as possible. Provide them with nectar plants and larval plants and you are on your way to increasing the butterfly population. We urge you to use as many Florida native plants as possible and stagger the blooming times so your garden is used year-round. Native plants are suited to their environment and require less water. In central Florida we are at the northernmost limit of many tropical species and the southernmost limit of many temperate species. Experiment with plants and find what works best for you and your butterflies. We urge you not to purchase butterflies. Remember, butterflies are already free.

<b>SHRUBS</b>		
Garberia (Garberia fruticosa)	native	lavender cluster
Firebush (Hamelia patens)	native	orange tubular
Porterweed (Stachytarpheta species)	both native and non-native	various colors
Lantana species	both native and non-native	various colors in clusters
Butterfly Bush (Buddleia species)	non-native	various colors in spikes
Golden Dewdrops (Duranta repens)	non-native	blue or white
Blueberry (Vaccinium species)	several native species	white urn-shaped clusters
Coralbean (Erythrina herbacea)	native	red tubular
Pentas (Pentas lanceolata) preferably RED	non-native	various colors in clusters
<b>TREES</b>		
Sparkleberry (Vaccinium arboreum)	native	white
Citrus family	both native and non-native	white
Chickasaw and Hog Plum (Prunus species)	native	white clusters
<b>VINES</b>		
Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)	native	red tubular
Trumpet Vine (Campsis radicans)	native	orange tubular
Climbing Aster (Aster carolinianus)	native	lavender ray florets
Scarlet Morning-glory (Ipomoea hederifolia)	native	red tubular
<b>ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS</b>		
Thistle (Cirsium species)	native and non-native	various colors
Milkweed (Asclepias species)	native and non-native	various colors
Blazing Star (Liatris species)	native	purple spikes
Carphephorus species	native	purple disk florets
Verbena species	native and non-native	various colors
Spanish Needles (Bidens alba)	native	white ray florets
Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)	non-native	purple ray florets
Scarlet Sage (Salvia coccinea)	native	red tubular
Snow Squarestem (Melanthera nivea)	native	white tubular
Wild Petunia (Ruellia caroliniensis)	native	lavender tubular
Ironweed (Vernonia species)	native	purple florets
Shrub Sunflower (Tithonia diversifolia)	non-native	orange ray florets
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