

Butterfly Gardening in Ft. Bend County

- 🌿 DO YOU LOVE WATCHING BUTTERFLIES FLIT THROUGH A GARDEN?
- 🌿 DO YOU KNOW WHICH PLANTS ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES?
- 🌿 DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOST AND NECTAR PLANTS?
- 🌿 WHAT ARE THE STAGES OF METAMORPHOSIS?
- 🌿 CAN YOU IDENTIFY LOCAL SPECIES OF BUTTERFLIES?

Butterflies love to float into the garden and feast on the lovely nectar sources. To attract this beautiful insect into your garden you need to know how to entice them.

There are two important plant groups when planning a butterfly garden:

- Host plants- where the adult lays the eggs and the hatched larva eats before pupating.
- Nectar plants-A source of food for the adult butterflies.

These two groups provide nourishment for the complete metamorphosis cycle.

Stages of Metamorphosis

The stages of the metamorphosis cycle include:

Egg - a tiny dot on your plant which has been laid by an adult butterfly.

Larva - the caterpillar stage after the egg hatches. There are 5 growth instars (stages) as the larva gets larger.

Chrysalis - the pupation stage where the larva changes in a shell as the adult butterfly develops

Adult – The adult emerges from the chrysalis, dries its wings and flies away ready to repeat the cycle.

Host Plants

This list of host plants is directed to the local Texas Gulf Coast butterflies; some of these plants are found in other parts of the state or outside of Texas and may be the host plants for other varieties of butterflies as well.

Each species of butterfly has specific plants on which they will lay eggs. The larva will only eat the specific plant variety. Planting the right host plants provides the nursery and food source for the next generation of butterflies.

Monarch and Queen

Milkweeds (*Asclepas*); *A. curassavica* (Mexican milkweed or butterfly weed)

Gulf Fritillary

Passionvines (*Passiflora*), especially *P. careulea* (blue passionvine) *P. incarnate* (maypop), or hybrid *P. 'incense'*

Giant Swallowtail

Plants in citrus family –*Citrus* spp. (lime, lemon, orange, grapefruit and kumquat trees); *Ptelea trifoliata* (wafer, ash),

Black Swallowtail

Plants in the parsley family, including dill, fennel, parsley, rue & Queen Anne's lace.

Spicebush Swallowtail

Laurel family, including spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), & red bay (*Persea borbonia*).

Pipevine & Polydamas Swallowtails

Plants in genus *Aristolochia* (Dutchman's pipevine), such as *A. fimbriata* (Brazilian pipevine), *A. elegans* (pelican flower) or *A. tomentosa* (a native).

Cloudless & Orange-Barred Sulphurs

Sennas (*Cassia* spp., including *C. alata*, *C. corymbosa*, and *C. splendida*) and partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)

Texas Crescent

Plants in the *acanthus* family, especially shrimp plant (*Bellaperone guttata*)

Nectar Plants

Botanical Name	Common Name
Plants 0-2 Feet Tall	
<i>Aster</i> spp.	Asters
<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	Brown & Black-eyed Susans
<i>Gaillardia pulcherrima</i>	Mexican Blanket
<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	Mexican Heather
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Cone Flower
<i>Verbena</i> spp.	Verbena
<i>Zinnia elegans</i> & others	Zinnas
Plants 2 – 4 Feet Tall	
<i>Cuphea 'David Verity'</i>	Cigar Plant
<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	Egyptian Star/ Pentas
Asteraceae <i>Eupatorium</i> spp.	Mistflower or Joe-Pye Weed
<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i>	Flame Acanthus
<i>Lantana</i> spp.	Lantana
<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Mexican Sunflower
<i>Stachytarpheta</i> spp.	Porter Weed
<i>Salvia</i> spp.	Salvias
<i>Celosia spicata</i>	Wheat Celosia
Plants Over 4 Feet Tall	
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush
<i>Hamilia patens</i>	Flame Bush
<i>Duranta repens</i> , <i>D. erecta</i>	<i>Duranta</i> Sweet Memory
<i>Jatropha integerrima</i>	<i>Jatropha</i>
<i>Bauhinia Mexicana</i>	Mexican Bauhinia
<i>Senecio confuse</i>	Mexican Flame Vine
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Yellow Bells
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For more Butterfly Gardening information visit Fort Bend County Master Gardeners

<http://fbmg.com>



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