

Butterfly Gardening in Brevard County

To actually "garden" for butterflies you need two types of plants. One for the butterflies to feed from (nectar plants) and the other plants for butterflies to lay their eggs on (host plants.) Once the eggs hatch the caterpillars will feed on the host plant. That means that some of your plants will be sacrificed so that the caterpillars can grow and eventually become a butterfly, all while staying in your yard. Also, choose plants with staggered blooming times so that you have blooms available throughout the warm months. Butterflies tend to stay fairly close to the areas where their natural larval food plants can be found.

Butterflies often display color preferences, liking red, yellow, and blue blossoms best. White varieties are generally inferior to the other colors. Flowers in the composite family (e.g. daisy and aster) and flowers in clusters (e.g. milkweed and viburnum) are good. It is best to have different flower types and varieties in a butterfly garden.

It is also important to provide water for the butterflies. Construct at least one puddle area for the butterflies because they can not drink from open water. You can make a watering area by adding sand to a bird bath or clay saucer filled with water. The sand will reduce the depth. A resting spot for the butterflies can be provided by placing a rock in the center of the sand and water.

The butterflies will drink from the moist sand so do not have any standing water above the sand.

PLANTS - FOR THE EGGS AND CATERPILLARS

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Butterfly</u>
Dutchman's pipe	Aristolochia spp.	Swallowtails
	Cassia spp.	Sulfurs
Scarlet milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	Monarchs & Queens
Passion vine	Passiflora spp.	Gulf Fritillary
Pawpaw	Asimina spp	Zebra swallowtail

FLOWERS - FOR THEIR NECTAR

SHRUBS

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Sun</u>
Butterfly bush	Buddleia spp	varied	Sp-F	FS/PS
Firebush	Hamelia patens	red	Sp-W	FS/PS
Lantana	Lantana camara	varied	Sp-W	FS
Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis	blue	W-Sp	FS
Glossy abelia	Abelia X grandiflora	pink	Sp-F	FS/PS

Tarflower	Befaria racemosa	white/ pink	S	FS
False heather	Cuphea hyssopifolia	lavender	Sp-W	FS/PS
Hibiscus	Hibiscus spp.	varied	Sp-W	FS/PS
Plumbago	Plumbago auriculata	lavender	Sp-F	FS/PS
Viburnum	Viburnum spp.	white	Sp	PS

PERENNIALS

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Sun</u>
Scarlet milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	orange	S-F	FS
Aster	Aster spp.	white, blue	S-F	FS
Purple coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	purple	S	FS
Sunflower	Helianthus spp.	yellow	S-F	FS
Blazing-star	Liatris spp.	purple	S-F	FS
Mint	Mentha, Nepeta, etc.	lavender	Sp-F	FS
Pentas	Pentas lanceolata	varied	Sp-F	FS
Blue phlox	Phlox divaricata	blue	Sp	PS
Phlox	Phlox floridana	lavender	Sp-S	FS
Salvia	Salvia spp.	varied	S-F	FS
Sedum	Sedum spectabile	red	F-W	FS/PS
Blue porterweed	Stachytarpheta jamaicensis	blue	Sp-F	FS
Stokes' aster	Stokesia laevis	blue	S	FS/PS
Thyme	Thymus spp.	purple	Sp-F	FS
Verbena	Verbena spp.	varied	Sp-F	FS
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	varied	S	FS
Bee balm	Monarda didyma	varied	S	PS

ANNUALS

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Sun</u>
Ageratum	Ageratum spp.	blue	Sp-S	FS
Borage	Borago officinalis	blue	S-F	FS
Cosmos	Cosmos bipinnatus	varied	S	FS
Flowering tobacco	Nicotiana glauca	varied	S	FS/PS
Sweet scabious	Scabiosa atropurpurea	varied	S-F	FS
Shasta daisy	Chrysanthemum spp.	white	Sp-S	FS/PS
Sweet william	Dianthus spp.	varied	Sp-W	FS/PS
Gaillardia	Gaillardia pulchella	yellow/ red	Sp-S	FS
Strawflower	Helichrysum spp.	varied	Sp-S	FS
Phlox	Phlox drummondii	varied	Sp-S	FS
Black-eyed susan	Rudbeckia hirta	yellow	S	FS
Marigold	Tagetes spp.	yellow	Sp-F	FS
Zinnia	Zinnia spp.	varied	Sp-F	FS

VINES

<u>Common name</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Sun</u>
Mexican flame vine	Senecio confusus	orange	S	FS/PS

Sp=Spring S=Summer F=Fall W=Winter FS=Full Sun PS=Partial Sun

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