

PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLY GARDENING IN BREVARD COUNTY

University of Florida/Brevard County Extension Service

TREES						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> Blue beech	20-30 feet	20-30 feet	Incon.	Full sun to shade	None	Deciduous; moderately drought tolerant; fluted trunk is very attractive; good specimen for small area; slow grower; attracts birds; shade tree; prefers moist, acidic soils; red-orange fall color; host plant - red-spotted purple butterfly; found at Erna Nixon Park
<i>Celtis laevigata</i> Hackberry	50-70 feet	50-60 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	High	Deciduous; tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; tolerates extended flooding; drought tolerant; at Erna Nixon Park; host plant to the Snout, Question Mark, Mourning Cloaks, Hackberry & Tawny Emperor butterflies; fast grower
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> Fringe Tree	12-20 feet	10-15 feet	White spring	Full sun to shade	None	Deciduous; slow grower; fragrant flowers; likes acid soils; flowers before the foliage emerges; attracts birds & mammals; prefers moist soils; butterfly host plant
<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i> May haw	20-30 feet	35-40 feet	White spring	Full sun part shade	?	Deciduous; slow grower; well-drained soils; tolerates acidic to slightly alkaline soils; moderate drought tolerance; host plant - Gray hairstreak butterfly
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> Persimmon	40-60 feet	20-35 feet	Incon.	Full sun to shade	High	Deciduous; drought resistant; female plants attract birds & mammals; can tolerate extended flooding; edible fruit; can form a thicket in open area; host plant - Henry's elfin butterfly; tolerates wide range of pH; can be found at Turkey Creek Sanctuary
<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i> Pop Ash	30-40 feet	25-30 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	Low	Deciduous; tolerates a wide range of pH; tolerates extended flooding; moderate growth rate; host plant - eastern tiger swallowtail
<i>Jatropha integerrima</i> Jatropha	10-15 feet	10-15 feet	Red year round	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Evergreen; tolerates wide range of pH; attracts butterflies; well-drained soils; may freeze back to the ground in cold weather but comes back from the roots; attracts hummingbirds
<i>Juniperus silicicola</i> Southern redcedar	30-45 feet	20-30 feet	Incon/	Full sun part shade	High	Evergreen; fast grower; berries attract birds; tolerates wide range of pH; drought tolerant; can tolerate wet or dry soils; cold tolerant; provides nesting for birds; host plant - olive hairstreak butterfly
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> Sweet bay	40-50 feet	15-25 feet	White summer	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Evergreen; fragrant flowers; fruit attracts birds & mammals; prefers moist, acidic soils; tolerates extended flooding; silver hairs on the undersides of the leaves gives the tree a shimmering appearance in windy weather; host plant - laurel swallowtail butterfly; zones 5A-10A
<i>Morus rubra</i> Red mulberry	50-70 feet	20-40 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	None	Deciduous; attracts birds & mammals; edible fruit; tolerates all soil moisture levels; fruits can stain cement, etc; host plant for question mark, red admiral & gray hairstreak butterflies; found at Sebastian Inlet State Park; Erna Nixon Park,; Enchanted Forest & Lori Wilson Park

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TREES(Cont.)						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Myrica cerifera</i> Wax myrtle	15-25 feet	20-25 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	High	Evergreen; an excellent small native tree; berries on FEMALE plants attract birds and mammals; fast grower; can tolerate extended flooding; root suckers can be a problem; use as a dense screen; susceptible to root and wood rot; host plant - red banded hairstreak butterfly; zones 7B-11
<i>Persea americana</i> Avocado	30-40 feet	25-35 feet	Incon	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Evergreen; fast grower; edible fruit; tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; moderate drought tolerance; host plant - laurel swallowtail
<i>Persea borbonia</i> Redbay	30-50 feet	30-50 feet	Incon	Full sun part shade	High	Evergreen; drought tolerant; tolerates wide range of pH; attracts birds & mammals; foliage is fragrant when crushed; prefers dry soils; shade tree; host plant - palamedes swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail & laurel swallowtail; can be found at Wickham Park & Lori Wilson Park; zones 7B-11
<i>Pinus elliotii var. densa</i> Slash pine	50-70 feet	35-50 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	High	Evergreen; fast grower; tolerates acidic to slightly alkaline soils; well-drained soils; tolerates occasionally wet soils; drought tolerant; attracts birds & mammals; 2-3 needles per bundle, 7-12 inches long; host plant - spicebush swallowtail; zones 9B-11
<i>Pinus glabra</i> Spruce pine	30-60 feet	25-40 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	Low	Evergreen; tolerates acidic to slightly alkaline soils; well-drained soils; tolerates extended flooding; moderate drought tolerance; host plant - spicebush swallowtail butterfly; zones 8A-9B
<i>Pinus palustris</i> Longleaf pine	60-80 feet	30-40 feet	Incon.	Full sun only	High	Evergreen; fast grower; tolerates acidic to slightly alkaline soils; well-drained soils; drought tolerant; attracts mammals; endangered red cockaded woodpecker is dependant on this tree for survival; 3 needles per bundle, 8-18 inches long; host plant - spicebush swallowtail butterfly; zones 7Z-10A
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i> Chickasaw plum	12-20 feet	15-20 feet	White spring	Full sun part shade	Low	Deciduous; fragrant flowers; attracts birds & mammals; prefers dry to moist, acidic soils; well-drained soils; high drought tolerances; thorns; can form underground runners which can create a thicket; nectar plant - butterflies; host plant - viceroy, eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies; zones 6A-9B
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i> Cherry laurel	25-40 feet	15-25 feet	White spring	Full sun to shade	Moderate	Evergreen; attracts birds and mammals; high drought tolerance; fragrant flowers; well-drained soils; tolerates wide range of pH; host plant - viceroy & eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i> Laurel oak	60-70 feet	35-45 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	Low	Semi-evergreen; fast grower; acorns attract mammals; moderate drought tolerances; well-drained soils; tolerates wide range of pH; host plant-red banded, southern oak & white M hairstreak butterflies; zones 6B-10A
<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i> Myrtle oak	20-30 feet	20-30 feet	Incon.	Full sun only	Moderate	Evergreen; attracts birds & mammals; well-drained soils; dry soils; tolerates wide range of pH; host plant-red banded, southern oak and white M hairstreak butterflies

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Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Quercus nigra</i> Water oak	50-60 feet	60-70 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	Low	Deciduous; fast grower; attracts mammals; tolerates wide range of pH; drought tolerant; tolerates extended flooding; host plant - red banded, southern oak & white M Hairstreak butterflies; zones 6A-10A
<i>Quercus virginiana</i> Live oak	60-80 feet	60-120 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	High	Semi-evergreen; tolerates wide range of pH; tolerates occasional flooding; well-drained soils; drought tolerant; host plant - red banded, southern oak & white M hairstreak butterflies; zones 7B-10B
<i>Ulmus alata</i> Winged elm	45-70 feet	30-40 feet	Incon	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Deciduous; tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained but will tolerate extended flooding; drought tolerant; prefers moist soils; host plant - question mark & hackberry butterflies; zones 6A-9B
<i>Ulmus americana var floridana</i> Florida elm	60-80 feet	50-60 feet	Incon	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Deciduous; fast grower; attracts birds; tolerates wide range pH; well-drained soils; tolerates extended flooding; moderate drought tolerance; prefers moist soils; host plant - question mark & hackberry butterflies; zones 8A-9B
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Chinese elm	40-50 feet	35-50 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	High	Deciduous; attractive peeling bark; tolerates wide range of pH; prefers well-drained soils; tolerates occasionally wet soil; drought tolerant; host plant - question mark & hackberry butterflies
<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i> Hercule's club	25-30 feet	15-20 feet	Incon.	Full sun only	High	Deciduous; well-drained soils; dry soils; very thorny; host plant for the giant swallowtail butterfly (orange dog caterpillar);
SHRUBS						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Abelia X grandiflora</i> Glossy abelia	4-6 feet	3-6 feet	Pink spring-fall	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Attracts butterflies; well-drained soils; dry soils; tolerates wide range of pH; Cult. 'Sherwoodii' Dwarf glossy abelia tolerates wet soils too; grows 2-4 feet tall and flowers year round
<i>Aster carolinianus</i> Climbing Aster	4-6 feet	3-4 feet	Pink fall	Full sun to shade	Moderate	Prefers moist to wet soils; nectar plants - butterflies
<i>Befaria racemosa</i> Tar flower	6-8 feet	1-2 feet	Pinkish white summer	Partial shade	Low	Sandy soil; fragrant flowers attract insects which become trapped on the sticky petals; prefers acidic soils; nectar plant - butterflies; evergreen
<i>Buddleia spp.</i> Butterfly bush	6-10 feet	6-10 feet	Variety spring,fall	Full sun only	Moderate	Good border plant; susceptible to frost; attracts butterflies & hummingbirds; fragrant flowers; cut flowers; tolerates acid soil; cut back in February as it blooms on new growth

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Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Cassia bicapsularis</i> Butterfly bush	6-10 feet	6-10 feet	Yellow fall	Full sun only	Moderate	Tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; dry soils; wet soils; host plant for the little sulphur butterfly
<i>Erythrina herbacea</i> Cherokee-bean	3-5 feet	4-8 feet	Red summer	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Well-drained soils; attracts hummingbirds; beans split to reveal bright scarlet seeds; deciduous; seeds are very poisonous; larval & nectar plant for butterflies; cold & drought tolerant; thorns
<i>Hamelia patens</i> Firebush	8-10 feet	4-6 feet	Red,orange year round	Full sun to shade	Low	Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds; well-drained soils; dry soils; wet soils; tolerates wide range of pH; drought tolerant; evergreen
<i>Plumbago auriculata</i> Plumbago	4-6 feet	6-10 feet	Blue year round	Full sun part shade	Low	Attracts butterflies; tolerates acidic soils; well-drained soils; dry soils; white flowering forms available also
<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i> Florida flame azalea	6-10 feet	6-10 feet	Yellow,orange spring	Part shade	None	Prefers acid soil; well-drained soils; slightly fragrant flowers; prune soon after flowering; deciduous; nectar plant for butterflies; give regular watering; mulch; fertilize one time a year in late winter
<i>Rhododendron canescens</i> Piedmont azalea	6-10 feet	6-10 feet	Pink, white spring	Part shade	None	Prefers acid soil; well-drained soils; slightly fragrant flowers; prune soon after flowering; deciduous; fertilize one time per year in late winter; nectar plant for butterflies
<i>Rhus copallina</i> Winged sumac	6-10 feet	3-6 feet	Yellowish late spring	Full sun part shade	Low	Tolerates acid soils; well-drained soils; dry soils; foliage is orange, red in the fall; attracts birds & deer; deciduous; cold & drought tolerant; host plant - red banded hairstreak butterfly
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> Rosemary	4-6 feet	3-6 feet	Pale blue spring- winter	Full sun only	None	Well-drained soils; dry soils; tolerates wide range of pH; nectar plant - butterflies; evergreen; silvery/gray foliage
<i>Sophora tomentosa</i> Necklace pod	5-6 feet	3-4 feet	Yellow spring,summer	Full sun	High	Attracts birds, hummingbirds & butterflies; well-drained soils; dry soils
<i>Viburnum obovatum</i> Walter's viburnum	8-25 feet	6-10 feet	White spring	Full sun to shade	Moderate	Tolerates wide range of pH; attracts birds & mammals; well-drained soils; high drought tolerance; can maintain 4-6 or 6-12 feet evergreen; cold tolerant; prefers moist to wet soils; replacement for <i>Ligustrum</i> ; shears well; host & nectar plant for butterflies
HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Scarlet milkweed	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Orange,red yellow/summer	Full sun part shade		Tolerates acidic soils; dry soils; well-drained soils; cut flower; host plant for Queen & Monarch butterflies; nectar plant-butterflies

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HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS (Cont.)						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Aster concolor</i> Silvery aster	2-3 feet	1-3 feet	Purple summer-winter	Full sun	Low	Nectar plant - butterflies; prefers dry soils; well-drained soils
<i>Chrysanthemum X morifolium</i> Garden mum	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Varied Fall	Full sun only	?	Pinch 1-2 times up to Aug. 15 to induce bushiness; evergreen; divide every 2 years; cut flower; tolerates acid soils; well-drained soils; nectar plant - butterflies
<i>Chrysopsis scabrella</i> Golden Aster	1-2 feet	0-1 feet	Yellow summer,fall	Full sun	Low	Nectar plant-butterflies; prefers dry soils; plant is sticky and odiferous flowers held up on 3 foot stems
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> Coreopsis	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Yellow summer,fall	Full sun only	?	Nectar plant - butterflies; tolerates wet soils; tolerates acid soils; well-drained soils; cut flower; native species is <i>C. Leavenworthii</i>
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple coneflower	3-4 feet	2-3 feet	Purple summer	Full sun	Low	Nectar plant-butterflies; moist soils; cut flower; dry flower; will need dividing
<i>Flaveria linearis</i> Yellow top	2-3 feet	1-2 feet	Yellow year round	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Nectar plant-butterflies; prefers wet areas; peak flowering is in the fall; plant is often bushy
<i>Liatris spicata</i> Blazing star	2-3 feet	1-3 feet	Purple summer	Full sun part shade	Low	Nectar plant - butterflies; cut flower; dry flower; tolerates acidic soils; well-drained soils; dies to ground in the winter; fast grower; also <i>L. tenuifolia</i> (narrow leaved) has moderate salt spray tolerance
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> Cardinal Flower	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Red summer	Full sun part shade	Low	Attracts hummingbirds; nectar plant - butterflies; cut flowers; wet soils; well-drained soils; fast grower
<i>Monarda didyma</i> Bee balm	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Pink summer	Part shade	None	Attracts hummingbirds; nectar plant-butterflies; well-drained soils; wet soils; tolerates acid soils; cut flower
<i>Monarda punctata</i> Dotted Horsemint	3-4 feet	2-3 feet	Mauve summer, fall	Full sun part shade	Moderate	Shearable; grows anywhere; nectar plant-butterflies
<i>Pentas lanceolata</i> Pentas	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Red year round	Full sun is best	?	Nectar plant - butterflies; cut flower; deadhead; well-drained soils; dry soils; other colors are available; tolerates acid soils
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> Garden phlox	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Varied summer	Full sun only	?	Nectar plant - butterflies; cut flower; well-drained soils; tolerates acid soils
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black-eyed susan	2-4 feet	1-3 feet	Yellow,orange summer-fall	Full sun only	High	Tolerate acid soils; well-drained soils; dry soils; nectar plant-butterflies; cut flower
<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i> Wild petunia	2-3 feet	1-2 feet	Lavender spring-fall	Full sun	Low	Nectar plant-butterflies; host plant for White Peacock butterfly; moist soils; dies back in winter??
<i>Salvia coccinea</i> Tropical Sage	2-3 feet	2-3 feet	Red spring-fall	Full sun	High	Attracts hummingbirds; nectar plant -butterflies; dry soils; drought tolerant; can be sheared; <i>S.c.var bicolor</i> is a naturally occurring cross

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Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Salvia elegans</i> Pineapple sage	2-4 feet	3-6 feet	Red fall	Full sun part shade	?	Attracts hummingbirds & butterflies; culinary & fragrance herb; tolerates acid soils well-drained soils
<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i> Blue porterweed	3-5 feet	2-3 feet	Blue/purple year round	Full sun	Moderate	Nectar plant-butterflies; well-drained soils; native variety gets only around 2 feet tall.
GROUNDCOVERS						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> Yarrow	1-2 feet	1-3 feet	White summer	Full sun only	?	Well-drained soils; dry soils; nectar plant-butterflies; tolerates acid soils; cut flower; dried flower; attracts beneficial insects
<i>Carphephorus odoratissimus</i> Vanilla plant	0-1 foot	0-1 foot	Purple summer-winter	Full sun part shade	Low	Nectar plant - butterflies; prefers moist soils; leaves have a vanilla odor especially when dried; flowers held on 3-4 foot stems
<i>Carphephorus paniculatus</i> Deer tongue	0-1 foot	0-1 foot	Purple fall-winter	Full sun part shade	Low	Nectar plant-butterflies; well-drained soils; flowers held on 3-4 foot stem
<i>Chrysanthemum coccineum</i> Pyrethrum daisy	1-2 feet	1-3 feet	Red,pink,white summer	Full sun part shade	?	Tolerates acid soil; well-drained soils; cut flower; nectar plant - butterflies; fast grower
<i>Chyrsanthemum X superbum</i> Shasta daisy	1-2 feet	1-3 feet	White summer	Full sun only	?	Evergreen; cut flower; divide every 2-3 years; likes lots of water & fertilizer; deadhead; nectar plant-butterflies; tolerates acid soils; well-drained soils
<i>Lantana depressa</i> Lantana	1-2 feet	1-2 feet	Yellow year round	Full sun	High	Nectar plant-butterflies; endangered; endemic to Brevard County?
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i> Trailing Lantana	0-1 feet	3-6 feet	Lavender,pink year round	Full sun only	?	Tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; dry soils; nectar plant - butterflies
<i>Lantana ovatifolia var. reclinata</i> Gold lantana	0-1 feet	3-6 feet	Yellow year round	Full sun only	High	Tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; dry soils; nectar plant - butterflies; fast grower
<i>Mentha suaveolens</i> Pineapple mint	0-1 feet	1-3 feet	Incon.	Full sun part shade	High	Tolerates acid soils; well-drained soils; nectar plant - butterflies; fragrant foliage; culinary herb; wet soils; dried flower

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GROUNDCOVERS (Cont.)						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Lockwood de Forest' Rosemary	9-14 inches	2-3 feet	Pale blue spring	Part shade	None	Fragrance herb; other cultivars include 'Prostrata', 'True Dwarf' 9 inches tall; tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; dry soils; nectar plant - butterflies
<i>Sedum spectabile</i> Showy stonecrop	1-2 feet	1-3 feet	Pink,red summer,fall	Full sun only	?	Tolerates acidic soils; well-drained soils; dry soils; attracts hummingbirds; nectar plant - butterflies; fast grower
<i>Sedum spurium</i> 'Dragon's blood' Sedum	0-1 feet	1-3 feet	Red summer	Full sun only	?	Tolerates acidic soils; well-drained soils; dry soils; nectar plant - butterflies
<i>Stokesia laevis</i> Stoke's aster	1-2 feet	1-2 feet	Lavender spring	Full sun is best	Low	Nectar plant-butterflies; divide every 3 years; cut flower
<i>Thymus X citriodorus</i> Lemon thyme	4-12 inches	0-1 feet	Pale lilac spring,summer	Full sun	?	Culinary herb; tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; dry soils; nectar plant - butterflies
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> Thyme	0-1 feet	0-1 feet	Pink,white summer	Full sun only	?	Culinary herb; tolerates acid soils; well-drained soils; nectar plant - butterflies; silver-gray foliage; fragrant foliages
<i>Verbena tempensis</i> Verbena	1-2 feet	0-1 feet	Purple year round	Full sun to shade	Moderate	Prefers moist soils; mulch in well-drained soils; prefers acidic soils; nectar plant-butterflies
ORNAMENTAL CLIMBING VINES						
Scientific Name Common Name	Height	Spread	Flower Color Season	Light Conditions	Salt Spray Tolerance	Comments
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> Carolina yellow jessamine	Vine	Var.	Yellow winter,spring	Full sun part shade	Low	Tolerates wide range of pH; well-drained soils; dry soils; wet soils; fragrant flowers; nectar plant-butterflies
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i> Passion flower	Vine	Var.	Purple,red year round	Full sun part shade	None	Fast grower; host plant for the gulf fritillary & zebra longwing butterflies; well-drained soils; dry soils; can grow on trellis or fence

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