

## BUTTERFLY GARDENING FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

While it is possible to attract many butterflies to your yard by planting nectar sources for them, the most important thing you can do to increase local butterfly populations is to plant the plants for their caterpillars (larva) to eat. Yes, this means certain plants will no longer have perfect leaves but imperfection is all a part of Nature. You will have the satisfaction of doing something that ensures future generations of butterflies for you and others to enjoy. With both nectar and larval plants in your yard, butterflies will repay you for your efforts by bringing all their friends to feast at your buffet and make themselves at home in your motel, which in turn means you will plant more plants for them to nectar on and more plants for their caterpillars, etc. This means you must never spray pesticides on your plants again. It's not nice to invite someone for dinner and then give their food a shot of poison. With very little effort you can entice the butterflies listed below into your garden to raise their families and to bring great joy into your life. Put out the welcome mat!



LARVAL FOOD PLANTS	BUTTERFLIES
MILKWEED, both native and non-native ( <i>Asclepias</i> species)	Monarch
<i>Conoclinium</i> & <i>Morrenia</i> are vines in the milkweed family	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
	Queen
	<i>Danaus gilippus</i>
<i>SENNA</i> species, both native and non-native, partridge pea, legumes	Cloudless Sulphur
<i>Senna</i> was formerly <i>Cassia</i>	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>
	Orange-barred Sulphur
	<i>Phoebis philea</i>
	Little Yellow
	<i>Eurema lisa</i>
PLUMBAGO, milk pea, lima bean, <i>Crotalaria</i> species, partridge pea	Cassius Blue
Cassius Blue uses plumbago	<i>Leptotes cassius</i>
Ceraunus Blue uses <i>Centrosema virginianum</i> & <i>Galactia regularis</i>	Ceraunus Blue
	<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>
Long-tailed Skipper uses many pea family vines & garden beans	Long-tailed Skipper
	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>
PASSION VINE, both native and non-native ( <i>Passiflora</i> species)	Gulf Fritillary



LARVAL FOOD PLANTS	BUTTERFLIES
Gulf Frits prefer plants in sun	<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>
Zebra prefers plants in shade	Zebra Heliconian
Neither uses red passion vines	<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>
PIPEVINE, both native and non-native ( <i>Aristolochia</i> species)	Pipevine Swallowtail
Pipevine Sw. prefers native - <i>A. serpentaria</i> or <i>A. tomentosa</i>	<i>Battus philenor</i>
Polydamas Sw. prefers non-native <i>Aristolochias</i>	Polydamas Swallowtail
	<i>Battus polydamas</i>
CARROT family inc. parsley, dill, fennel; <i>Eryngium</i> species also	Black Swallowtail
	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>
CUDWEED ( <i>Gnaphalium</i> species)	American Lady
	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>
NETTLES ( <i>Urtica</i> species), False Nettle ( <i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> )	Red Admiral
and Pellitory ( <i>Parietaria</i> species)	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
PLANTAIN ( <i>Plantago</i> species), False Foxglove ( <i>Agalinus</i> species)	Common Buckeye
Wild Petunia ( <i>Ruellia</i> species)	<i>Junonia coenia</i>
CITRUS trees; Hercules' Club ( <i>Zanthoxylum clava-hercules</i> )	Giant Swallowtail
	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>
FROGFRUIT ( <i>Phyla nodiflora</i> ) also called Capweed, Match Plant	Phaon Crescent
	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>
<i>CANNA</i> species, both native and non-native	Brazilian Skipper
Revised January 2004	<i>Calpodas ethlius</i>



## 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 ( <i>Garberia fruticosa</i> )	native	lavender cluster
Firebush ( <i>Hamelia patens</i> )	native	orange tubular
Porterweed ( <i>Stachytarpheta</i> species)	both native and non-native	various colors
<i>Lantana</i> species	both native and non-native	various colors in clusters
Butterfly Bush ( <i>Buddleia</i> species)	non-native	various colors in spikes
Golden Dewdrops ( <i>Duranta repens</i> )	non-native	blue or white
Blueberry ( <i>Vaccinium</i> species)	several native species	white urn-shaped clusters
Coralbean ( <i>Erythrina herbacea</i> )	native	red tubular
Pentas ( <i>Pentas lanceolata</i> )	non-native	various colors clusters
<b>TREES</b>		
Sparkleberry ( <i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> )	native	white
Citrus family	both native and non-native	white
Chickasaw and Hog Plum ( <i>Prunus</i> species)	native	white clusters
<b>VINES</b>		
Coral Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> )	native	red tubular
Trumpet Vine ( <i>Campsis radicans</i> )	native	orange tubular
Climbing Aster ( <i>Aster carolinianus</i> )	native	lavender ray florets
Scarlet Morning-glory ( <i>Ipomoea hederifolia</i> )	native	red tubular



<b>SHRUBS</b>		
<b>ANNUALS and PERENNIALS</b>		
Thistle ( <i>Cirsium</i> species)	native and non-native	various colors
Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias</i> species)	native and non-native	various colors
Blazing Star ( <i>Liatris</i> species)	native	purple spikes
<i>Carphephorus</i> species	native	purple disk florets
<i>Verbena</i> species	native and non-native	various colors
Spanish Needles ( <i>Bidens alba</i> )	native	white ray florets
Purple Coneflower ( <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> )	non-native	purple ray florets
Scarlet Sage ( <i>Salvia coccinea</i> )	native	red tubular
Snow Squarestem ( <i>Melanthera nivea</i> )	native	white tubular
Wild Petunia ( <i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i> )	native	lavender tubular
Ironweed ( <i>Vernonia</i> species)	native	purple florets
Shrub Sunflower ( <i>Tithonia diversifolia</i> )	non-native	orange ray florets
Prepared by		revised Sept. 2003
Byrum W. (Buck) and Linda F. Cooper		
558 Sunshine Blvd., Haines City, FL 33844	(863) 439-2704	

## **BUTTERFLIES OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

### **SWALLOWTAILS**

Family Papilionidae

#### **SWALLOWTAILS** Subfamily Papilioninae

- ....Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor* 2-11
- ....Polydamas Swallowtail *Battus polydamas* 1-12
- ....Zebra Swallowtail *Eurytides marcellus* 2-10
- ....Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes* 1-12
- ....Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cresphontes* 1-12
- ....Eastern Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio glaucus* 1-12
- ....Spicebush Swallowtail *Papilio troilus* 2-12
- ....Palamedes Swallowtail *Papilio palamedes* 1-12

### **WHITES AND SULPHURS**

Family Pieridae

#### **WHITES** Subfamily Pierinae

- ....Checkered White *Pontia protodice* 2-10
- ....Cabbage White *Pieris rapae* 3-10
- ....Great Southern White *Ascia monuste* 3-12

#### **SULPHURS** Subfamily Coliadinae

- ....Orange Sulphur *Colias eurytheme* 5-10
- ....Southern Dogface *Colias cesonia* 3-10
- ....Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae* 1-12

....Orange-barred Sulphur *Phoebis philea* 1-12  
....Large Orange Sulphur *Phoebis agarithe* 5-12  
....Barred Yellow *Eurema daira* 1-12  
....Little Yellow *Eurema lisa* 1-12  
....Sleepy Orange *Eurema nicippe* 1-12  
....Dainty Sulphur *Nathalis iole* 1-12

## GOSSAMER-WING BUTTERFLIES

Family Lycaenidae

**HAIRSTREAKS** Subfamily Theclinae  
....Great Purple Hairstreak *Atlides halesus* 1-12  
....Banded Hairstreak *Satyrium calanus* 4 & 5  
....Oak Hairstreak *Satyrium favonius* 4-6  
....Henry's Elfin *Callophrys henrici* 3 & 4  
....Juniper Hairstreak *Callophrys gryneus* 3-10 R  
....White M Hairstreak *Parrhasius m-album* 3-11  
....Gray Hairstreak *Strymon melinus* 2-11  
....Red-banded Hairstreak *Calycopis cecrops* 1-12

**BLUES** Subfamily Polyommatainae

....Cassius Blue *Leptotes cassius* 3-12  
....Ceraunus Blue *Hemiargus ceraunus* 1-12

**METALMARKS** Family Riodinidae

....Little Metalmark *Calephelis virginensis* 2-11

## BRUSHFOOTED BUTTERFLIES

Family Nymphalidae

**SNOUTS** Subfamily Libytheidae  
....American Snout *Libytheana carinenta* 2-10

## HELICONIANS AND FRITILLARIES

Subfamily Heliconiinae

....Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae* 1-12  
....Zebra Heliconian *Heliconius charithonia* 1-12  
....Variegated Fritillary *Euptoieta claudia* 3-12

**TRUE BRUSHFOOTS** Subfamily Nymphalinae

....Phaon Crescent *Phyciodes phaon* 1-12  
....Pearl Crescent *Phyciodes tharos* 1-12  
....Question Mark *Polygonia interrogationis* 1-12  
....American Lady *Vanessa virginiensis* 2-8  
....Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* 4-11 R  
....Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* 1-12  
....Common Buckeye *Junonia coenia* 1-12  
....White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae* 1-12

**ADMIRALS** Subfamily Limenitidinae

....Red-spotted Purple *Limenitis arthemis*

*astyanax* 3-10

....Viceroy *Limenitis archippus* 1-12

**EMPERORS** Subfamily Apaturinae

....Hackberry Emperor *Asterocampa celtis* 3-12  
....Tawny Emperor *Asterocampa clyton* 3-11

**SATYRS** Subfamily Satyrinae

....Appalachian Brown *Satyroides appalachia* 3-11 R  
....Gemed Satyr *Cyllopsis gemma* 2-10 R  
....Carolina Satyr *Hermeuptychia sosybius* 1-12  
....Georgia Satyr *Neonympha areolata* 3-10  
....Little Wood Satyr *Megisto cymela* 3 & 4

**MONARCHS** Subfamily Danainae

....Monarch *Danaus plexippus* 1-12  
....Queen *Danaus gilippus* 1-12  
....Soldier *Danaus eresimus* 3-12 R

## SKIPPERS

Family Hesperiidae

**SPREAD-WING SKIPPERS** Subfamily Pyrginae

....Silver-spotted Skipper *Epargyreus clarus* 2-12  
....Long-tailed Skipper *Urbanus proteus* 1-12  
....Dorantes Longtail *Urbanus dorantes* 1-12  
....Southern Cloudywing *Thorybes bathyllus* 2-10  
....Northern Cloudywing *Thorybes pylades* 3-9  
....Confused Cloudywing *Thorybes confusis* 2-10 R  
....Hayhurst's Scallopwing *Staphylus hayhurstii* 3-10 R  
....Sleepy Duskywing *Erynnis brizo* 2 & 3  
....Juvenal's Duskywing *Erynnis juvenalis* 2-4  
....Horace's Duskywing *Drynnis horatius* 1-12  
....Zarucco Duskywing *Erynnis zarucco* 1-11  
....Common Checkered-Skipper *Pyrgus communis* 2-11  
....White Checkered-Skipper *Pyrgus albescens* 2-11  
....Tropical Checkered-Skipper *Pyrgus oileus* 1-12

**GRASS-SKIPPERS** Subfamily Hesperinae

....Swarthy Skipper *Nastra Iherminier* 2-11  
....Neamathla Skipper *Nastra neamathla* 2-11  
....Clouded Skipper *Lerema accius* 1-12  
....Least Skipper *Ancyloxypha numitor* 1-11  
....Southern Skipperling *Copaeodes minimus* 3-12  
....Fiery Skipper *Hylephila phyleus* 1-12  
....Dotted Skipper *Hesperia attalus* 3-11 R

- ....Meske's Skipper *Hesperia meskei* 5 & 6, 9 & 10  
R  
 ....Baracoa Skipper *Polites baracoa* 2-11 R  
 ....Tawny-edged Skipper *Polites themistocles* 2-10  
 ....Whirlabout *Polites vibex* 1-12  
 ....Southern Broken-Dash *Wallengrenia otho* 3-11  
 ....Northern Broken-Dash *Wallengrenia egeremet*  
 4-11  
 ....Sachem *Atalopedes campestris* 2-12  
 ....Arogos Skipper *Atrytone arogos* 3-11 R  
 ....Delaware Skipper *Atrytone logan* 3-11  
 ....Byssus Skipper *Problema byssus* 4-10  
 ....Aaron's Skipper *Poanes aaroni* 2-4, 7-11  
 ....Palmetto Skipper *Euphyes arpa* 3-5, 8-10  
 ....Palatka Skipper *Euphyes pilatka* 3-10  
 ....Duke's Skipper *Euphyes dukesi* 5-10 R  
 ....Berry's Skipper *Euphyes berryi* 4 & 5, 8-10 R  
 ....Dun Skipper *Euphyes vestris* 3-10  
 ....Monk *Asbolis capucinus* 4-11  
 ....Dusted Skipper *Atrytonopsis hiana* 3 & 4, 7-10  
R  
 ....Eufala Skipper *Lerodea eufala* 1-12  
 ....Twin-spot Skipper *Oligoria maculata* 1-12  
 ....Brazilian Skipper *Calpodis ethlius* 1-12  
 ....Ocola Skipper *Panoquina ocola* 1-12



**GIANT SKIPPERS** Subfamily Megathyminae

- ....Yucca Giant-Skipper *Megathymus yuccae* 2-5 R  
 ....Cofaqui Giant-Skipper *Megathymus cofaqui* 2 &  
 3, 8-10 R

R indicates butterfly is RARE in Polk County.

Numbers 1-12 indicate butterfly flight months.

Scientific nomenclature and English names follow  
 The North American Butterfly Association 2001  
 Checklist and English names of North American  
 Butterflies, Second Edition.



Checklist prepared by Linda and Byrum Cooper  
 558 Sunshine Boulevard, Haines City, FL 33844.  
 (863) 439-2704  
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