OUR BEST PLANTS TO ATTRACT SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUTTERFLIES

LARVEL (HOST) PLANTS

Native Trees:
Florida Red Bay (Persea borbonia)
Palamedes, Spicebush
Wild Lime (Zanthoxylum fagara)
Giant Swallowtail
Sweet Bay Magnolia (Magnolia virginiana)
Tiger Swallowtail
Sweet Acacia (Acacia farnesiana)
Ceraunus Blue
Native Tamarind (Lysiloma latisiliquum)
Large Orange Sulphur, Cassius Blue

Native Vines:
Corky Stem Passionvine (Passiflora suberosa) Zebra Heliconia (longwing), Gulf Fritillary
MAYpOp Passionvine (Passiflora incarnata)
Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconia (longwing)
White Twinevine (Sarcostema clausum)
Queen, Soldier

Native Wildflowers:
Twinflower (Dyschoriste oblongifolia)
Common Buckeye
Milkweed (Asclepias spp. Various)
Monarch, Queen
False Nettle (Boehmaria cylindrica)
Red Admiral
Partridge Pea (Cassia fasciculate)
Sulphurs
Frogfruit (Phyla nodiflora)
Phaon Crescent, White Peacock
Pencilflowers (Stylophones his biflora)
Barred Yellow
Waterfish (Bacopa monnieri)
White Peacock

NECTAR PLANTS

Native Shrubs:
Coral Bean (Erythrina herbacea)
Firebush (Hamelia patens)
Native Lantana (Lantana involucrata)
Wild Coffee (Psychotria nervosa)
Blue Porterweed (Stachytarpheta jamaicensis)

Native Wildflowers:
Mistflower - Ageratum (Conoclinum coelestinum, Ageratum spp)
Tampa Verbena (Glandularia tampensis)
Beach Verbena (Glandularia maritima)
Tropical Sage (Salvia coccinea)
Goldenrod (Solidago spp.)
Scorpion’s tail (Heliotropium angiospermum)
Giant Ironweed (Vernonia gigantia)
Blazing Star (Liatris spicata)
Starry Rosinweed (Silphium compositum)

Native Vines:
Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)
Climbing Aster (Aster caroliniensis)
Trumpet Creeper (Campsis radicans)
Wild Allamanda (Urechites lutea)
Non-native, Florida Friendly Nectar Plants:
Old Fashioned Red Penta (Penta lanceolata)
Upright Purple Porterweed (Stachytarpheta spp)
Carribean firebush (Hamelia nodosa)
Golden dewdrop (Duranta repens)
Firespike (Odontonema callistachyum)
Pineland Lantana (Lantana spp sterile hybrid)
Jatropha (Jatropha intergerrima)
Mexican Flame Vine (Senecio confuses)
Yellow Buttercup (Turnera ulminifolia)
White Buttercup (Turnera ulminifolia var Alba)

Lists from Sarasota Butterfly Club plant list, Guide to Butterflies of Southwest Florida (Marc and Maria Minno), and Florida Native Plants Nursery additions.

Designing a Butterfly Garden: Encourage butterflies into your yard by growing native for nectar and caterpillars. Avoid using pesticides; they are always detrimental to butterflies.

To attract the greatest diversity of butterfly species:
• Plant both native larval host plants and adult native nectar sources for butterflies at all stages of their lives.
• Garden in full sun and partial shade.
• Select a variety of plants that bloom at different times.
• Choose plants with different heights and growth habits.
• Group plants of the same species.
• Use a mixture of flower colors, shapes, and sizes.
• Check the sunlight, water, and soil needs of each plant to determine the best location.

Alternatively, let us design, deliver and plant a butterfly garden for you. Call the nursery at 941-322-1915 for more information on getting started with Florida native plants for butterflies.

Cited resource: Florida Museum of Natural History Publication “Florida Wildflowers and Butterflies” and Guide to Butterflies of Southwest Florida