

BUTTERFLY	CATERPILLAR HOST PLANT	BUTTERFLY NECTAR SOURCE
Pearl Crescent	Aster	Dogbane
Pipe Vine Swallowtail	Dutchman's Pipe, Pipe Vine*	Buddleia
Polydamus Swallowtail	Pipe Vine*	Buddleia
Queen	Milkweed	Milkweed, Beggar-tick,* Daisy
Question Mark	Hackberry,* Elm, Nettle, Basswood	Aster, Milkweed, Sweet Pepperbush*
Red Admiral	Nettle	Stonecrop, Clover,* Aster, Dandelion,* Goldenrod, Mallow
Red-spotted Purple	Black Cherry, Willow, Poplar	Privet, Poplar
Silver-spotted Skipper	Black Locust, Wisteria	Dogbane, Privet, Clover,* Thistle, Winter Cress*
Silvery Checkerspot	Sunflower	Cosmos, Blanket Flower, Marigold, Phlox, Zinnia
Sleepy Orange	Cassia,* Clover*	Blue Porter,* Beggar Tick,* Aster
Spicebush Swallowtail	Spicebush, Sassafras	Dogbane, Joe Pye Weed, Buddleia
Spring Azure	Dogwood, Viburnum, Blueberry, Spirea, Apple	Blackberry, Cherry, Dogwood, Forget-me-not, Holly
Tiger Swallowtail	Black Cherry, Birch, Poplar, Willow	Joe Pye Weed, Buddleia
Variiegated Fritillary	Violet, Passion Vine	Joe Pye Weed
Viceroy	Willow, Poplar, Fruit Trees	Thistle, Beggar-tick,* Goldenrod, Milkweed
Zabulon Skipper	Purpletop Grass	Blackberry, Vetch,* Thistle, Milkweed, Buttonbush
Zebra Swallowtail	Pawpaw	Dogbane, Joe Pye Weed, Buddleia, Privet, Blueberry

*These are plants we do not currently carry, but you may already have them in your yard.

The majority of information presented in this brochure came from the following web sites:

- <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/horticulture/butterfly.html>
- <http://butterflywebsite.com/>
- <http://www.thebutterflysite.com/gardening.shtml>
- <http://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/HGIC1701.htm>.

Also remember not to use pesticides in your butterfly garden area! To learn how to garden organically, go to <http://butterflywebsite.com/organicgardening.cfm>.

Butterfly Gardening

Environmental Enhancement with Ornamentals

Butterfly gardening has become one of the most popular hobbies today. What could bring more joy than a beautiful butterfly fluttering around your garden? In addition to their natural beauty, butterflies serve as valuable plant pollinators.



By devoting a portion of your landscape to butterfly habitat, you can greatly enhance butterfly populations. Here are some tips to make your garden especially butterfly-friendly.

Your first step should be to find out which butterflies are in your area. You can do this by spending some time outdoors with your field guide to see which species are around. You can also refer to the butterfly list and web sites included in this brochure.

As you plan your butterfly garden, choose a sunny location (at least 5-6 hours of sun each day) that is sheltered from the winds. Butterflies need the sun to warm themselves, but they won't want to feed in an area where they are constantly fighting the wind to stay on the plants. It is also a good idea to place a few flat stones in your sunny location so the butterflies can take a break while warming up.

The three necessary ingredients to attract and maintain butterfly populations all summer are:

- a shallow pool of water
- nectar producing plants
- larval food plants

The first important ingredient for a sustained butterfly population is a source of water. Butterflies will not drink from open, deep water areas. Therefore, it is necessary to provide **one or more shallow water sources**. Wet sand or mud provides excellent watering holes. The saucer designed to fit beneath clay or plastic pots has the right general size and shape -- just add sand to make the water source shallow. A rock or other object in the center of the saucer provides a resting spot for the butterfly.

**Georgia Mountains
Master Gardeners**



<http://www.gammg.org>

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The next two necessary ingredients are food plants. Butterflies use two different types - those that provide nectar for the adults to eat (nectar plants), and those that provide food for their offspring (host plants). In both cases, it is best to use plants that are native to your area rather than exotic species.

Nectar-producing plants provide food for the adults (the butterflies) and are necessary to attract and establish a butterfly population. Characteristics of good butterfly-attracting plants include:

- sweet, pungent and highly fragrant flower
- flower colors such as red, purple, orange, yellow and pink
- simple, open flowers

Flowers that are deep-throated or enclosed are not conducive to nectar collection. Most of the plants recommended as nectar food plants are herbaceous or woody perennials. Plant them in a sunny border area of your landscape. Some of the butterfly's favorite food plants include aster, black-eyed susan, butterfly weed, coreopsis, day lily, dill, fennel, goldenrod, hibiscus, lavender, lilac, marigold, butterfly bush, oxeye daisy, pink azalea, purple coneflower, redbud, rosemary, and verbena.

If you have a limited area to landscape or to redesign, three plants that are most recommended for butterfly gardens are pentas, lantana, and butterfly bush (*Buddleia*). Pentas, particularly in Atlanta and the North Georgia area, should be grown as an annual. Lantana and butterfly bush are excellent perennial shrubs that flower through the spring, summer, and fall. Both plants should be cut back in February or March since flowers occur on new growth. To attract the swallowtail butterfly, you can include fennel in your border plants.



The ideal butterfly garden also provides **food plants and habitat for the larvae (caterpillars)**. The suggested plant material should be in an undisturbed area that is free of pesticides. Start with an unmowed area of the lawn that receives lots of sun. Many of the grasses and wildflowers native to Georgia are suitable for larvae food. These meadow areas should only be mowed at the end of the butterfly season, October to November, to avoid harming the larvae.

The larvae of each butterfly have a fairly strong preference when it comes to their diet. However, groups of plants that are desirable to a fairly wide range of butterfly larvae include willow, wild cherry, milk weeds, sweet bay, passion vine, legumes, crucifers, and asters. Many of the wild-flowers that perform well in the southeast provide excellent nectar and larvae food. Wildflower seed mixes are available and can be sown in the sunny meadow areas. This is an easy, low-cost way to enhance the food sources for butterflies and larvae. Wildflowers also provide natural areas that are low-maintenance and water-efficient.

This chart lists the more common butterflies in Georgia, along with their nectar plants and their host or larval plants.

BUTTERFLY	CATERPILLAR HOST PLANT	BUTTERFLY NECTAR SOURCE
American Snout	Hackberry*	Aster, Dogbane, Dogwood, Goldenrod, Pepperbush*
Baltimore Checkerspot	Turtlehead, False Foxglove, Plantain	Milkweed, Viburnum, Wild Rose
Black Swallowtail	Parsley, Dill, Fennel	Aster, Buddleia, Joe Pye Weed, Alfalfa*
Clouded Sulphur	Clover*	Goldenrod, Grape Hyacinth, Marigold
Cloudless Sulphur	Cassia,* Apple, Clover*	Zinnia, Butterfly Bush, Cosmos, Cushion Mum
Comma	Elm, Hops,* Nettle	Butterfly Bush, Dandelion*
Common Buckeye	Snapdragon, Loosestrife	Carpetweed
Common Checkered Skipper	Mallow/Hollyhock	Shepherd's Needles*, Red Clover,* Fleabane, Aster
Common Sulphur	Vetch*	Aster, Dogbane, Goldenrod
Common Wood-nymph	Purpletop Grass	Purple Coneflower
Eastern Pygmy Blue	Glasswort*	Salt Bush*
Eastern Tailed Blue	Clover,* Peas	Dogbane
Falcate Orangetip	Rock Cress,* Mustard	Mustard, Strawberry, Chickweed,* Violet
Giant Swallowtail	Citrus	Joe Pye Weed, Buddleia
Gorgone Checkerspot	Sunflower	Sunflower, Goldenrod
Gray Hairstreak	Mallow/Hollyhock, Clover,* Alfalfa*	Thistle, Ice Plant
Great Spangled Fritillary	Violet	Thistle, Black-eyed Susan, Milkweed, Ironweed
Gulf Fritillary	Pentas, Passion-vine	Joe Pye Weed
Little Glassywing	Purpletop Grass	Dogbane, Zinnia
Little Yellow	Cassia,* Clover*	Clover*
Monarch	Milkweed	Dogbane, Buddleia
Mourning Cloak	Willow, Elm, Poplar, Birch, Nettle, Wild Rose	Butterfly Bush, Milkweed, Shasta Daisy, Dogbane
Orange-barred Sulphur	Cassia*	Many plants
Orange Sulphur	Vetch.* Alfalfa,* Clover*	Alfalfa,* Aster, Clover,* Verbena
Painted Lady	Thistle, Daisy, Mallow/Hollyhock, Burdock*	Aster, Zinnia

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