



## BUTTERFLY GARDENING INFORMATION

Compiled by Janis Merritt

### Best Plants to Attract Butterflies (and easy to grow):

Most butterflies must land on the flower in order to feed on the nectar. Some of the larger swallowtail butterflies can feed from tubular flowers. Planting a variety of shapes and sizes of flowers will bring a diversity of butterflies. Be sure to plant several of each species of plants as large masses of color will help to attract butterflies to your garden.

Lantana	Sun	White Mistflower	Sun/Partial Shade
Mexican Milkweed	Sun	Blue Mistflower	Sun/Partial Shade
Pride of Barbados	Sun	Rock Rose	Sun/Partial Shade
Purple Fall Aster	Sun	Penta	Sun/Partial Shade
Mex. Mint Marigold	Sun	Summer Phlox	Sun/Partial Shade
Zinnia	Sun	Yarrow	Sun/Partial Shade
Verbena	Sun	Glossy Abelia	Sun/Partial Shade
Globe Amaranth	Sun	Texas Betony	Partial Shade
Butterfly Bush	Sun		
Cenizo	Sun		
Purple Coneflower	Sun		

**Remember the caterpillars.** Be aware of the different life cycles of butterflies. Many people forget that butterflies come from caterpillars. To help increase butterfly populations, plant some larval food plants in the landscape.

### Larval Food Plants:

Fennel, Dill, Parsley, and Rue provide food for the Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillar  
Passionvine for the Gulf Fritillary  
Citrus for the Giant Swallowtail, also Hop Tree and Toothache Tree  
Milkweed plants for Monarch and Queen  
Pipevine for Pipevine Swallowtail  
Hackberry for Hackberry butterfly and others  
Oak for Hairstreaks and others  
Native grasses for the Skippers  
Many, many, more

### Other considerations:

Butterflies also need water and shelter.

To provide water you may use a shallow dish with sand and pebbles.

Using sprinklers can wash away nectar. If you must use them, water early in the morning a couple of hours before the butterflies come out to feed.

Butterflies need shelter from wind and inclement weather. Plant evergreen trees and shrubs near the butterfly garden. Some examples of evergreens are Cedar, Evergreen Sumac, Mountain Laurel, Arizona Cypress, Live Oak, Yaupon Holly, and native grasses. Place decorative rocks or logs in the garden as butterflies need to warm up before they can fly.

Plan your garden to have flowers blooming throughout the season.

Some butterflies prefer rotten fruit. Provide native plants that drop fruit such as grapes, dewberries, Mexican Plum, Texas Persimmon, and Blanco Crabapples.

### **Reasons for attracting butterflies.**

When we gaze upon the beautiful butterflies lazily flitting from flower to flower, we think about their beauty and how relaxed they make us feel. What we don't realize is that they are busy doing a very important job. Butterflies are second only to bees as important pollinators whose hard work pays off in the production of seeds and fruits for our enjoyment, for food for wildlife, and for future plants. By providing space in our landscapes for the plants and habitat they need we can do a lot to help protect our native butterflies.

### **Some common native butterflies found in the San Antonio area:**

Gulf Fritillary	Eastern Black Swallowtail
Giant Swallowtail	Pipevine Swallowtail
Tiger Swallowtail	Suplphur butterflies
Hairstreaks	American Snout
Hackberry butterfly	Red Admiral
Bordered Patch	Checkerspot butterflies
Painted Lady	Monarch
Buckeye	Queen
White Checkered Skipper	Brazilian Skipper
And other Skipper butterflies	

### **Bibliography**

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