



Butterfly Garden Plants

What follows are notes about the care of plants the butterfly gardener's propagate for our garden. These plants can often be found for sale to the general public through the Friends of Daggerwing Nature Center.

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Bahama Cassia
Senna mexicana

General Facts:

- Native
- Grows about 4ft in height
- Popular nectar source for butterflies



- Host plant to Cloudless Sulphur and Orange-barred Sulphur



Recommended Care:

- Full sun to light shade
- Medium Moisture
- Moderate drought tolerance



Beach Verbena
Glandularia maritima



General Facts: It is a native nectar plant and an endangered species in Florida. It grows prostrate along the ground and is excellent for ground cover. It requires medium moisture and does very well in full sun. It is very hardy and its rich green foliage is evergreen. This plant attracts many different pollinators.

Blue Porterweed
Stachytarpheta sp.

General Facts:

- Non-Native
- Blooms year around
- Height 1-3ft; spreads 3ft; Grows quickly
- Extremely** popular nectar source for a wide range of butterflies

Recommended Care:

- Full sun to partial shade
- Medium moisture
- Minimal care necessary



Butterfly Pea Plant

Clitoria ternatea

General Facts:

- Fast growing climbing plant
- Lattice, trellis, arbor recommended
- Flowers are EDIBLE
- Full or partial sun & drought tolerant



Native; Host plant for Long-tailed Skipper



Candle Bush

Senna alata

General Facts:

- Tropical perennial
- Grows 4-6ft.
- Non-Native
- Medicinal uses in treating fungal infections
- Host plant to Cloudless Sulphur and Orange-barred Sulphur

Recommended Care:

- Full sun
- Minimal upkeep
- Drought Tolerant



Climbing Aster
Symphotrichum carolinianum



Native; Host plant for Pearl Crescent



General Facts: Perennial, up to 4 feet tall, partial shade, medium moisture, blooms late in summer and fall.



Corkystem Passion Vine

Passiflora suberosa

General Facts: This is a perennial herbaceous vine with corky lower stems, tendrils, and small yellowish flowers. It blooms throughout the year and can be grown in full to partial sun. Trellis or association with a fence or railing will offer support as the vine grows. It needs medium water. It is a native host plant for Zebra Longwing, Gulf Fritillary, and Julia butterflies.



Gulf Fritillary



Zebra Longwing



Julia

Turkey Tangle Frogfruit/Fogfruit

Phyla nodiflora



Native; Host plant for Cassius Blue & White Peacock



General Facts: Perennial herb, ground cover, full or partial sun, less than 6 inches in height, blooms year round. Medium moisture.



Golden Dewdrop *Duranta erecta*



Native; Nectar plant for many butterflies

General Facts: The Golden Dewdrop is a large, sprawling bush or small tree that in Central Florida tops off at about 8 feet (it can get larger in S. Florida). It can grow in full sun, but it can tolerate some shade. It needs well drained soil. Once established it is somewhat drought tolerant, but probably would grow better with weekly watering during dry periods. It takes regular fertilizing.

Lantana
Lantana involucrata



Native; Nectar plant for many butterflies



General Facts: Partial shade to full sun, 2 to 4 feet high, can bloom year round if moisture levels are kept at least at a medium level.

Milkweed
Asclepius sp.



Non-Native; Host plant for Monarch & Queen



General Facts: Full sun & well drained soil, spreads easily, produces flowers year round, can reach 3-4 feet, very easy to maintain.

Parsely & Dill

Petroselinum crispum & *Anethum graveolens*



General Facts: Plant in shade, direct sun is not recommended. Plants do well when placed in pots and watered frequently. These are common herb plants.



Naturalized; Host plants for Black Swallowtail

Pink Swamp Milkweed

Asclepius incarnata



Native; Host plant for Monarch & Queen



- General Facts:** Full sun & well drained soil
- MUST have for butterfly garden
 - Host plant for **Monarch & Queen** butterflies
 - Spreads easily
 - May reach 3-4 feet

Privet Cassia
Cassia ligustrina

General facts:

- Native
- Grows 4-8 ft high
- Popular to birds, bees, and butterflies
- Host plant to Cloudless Sulphur and Orange-barred Sulphur



Recommended Care:

- Sun to partial shade
- Water regularly
- Do not overwater



Scorpion Tail

Heliotropium angiospermum



Native; Nectar plant

General Facts: Place in full to partial sun and it can reach 6 feet. Plant requires adequate moisture to become established. It blooms year round and is very hardy.



Seashore Ageratum
Ageratum littorale



Native; Nectar plant for many Butterflies



General Facts: Plant in full sun, water medium, frequently fertilize, and try to plant near to and with other similar tolerant plants. Great ground cover, requires pruning throughout the year to maintain optimal condition. May reach a foot in height.

Southern River Sage

Salvia misella

General Facts:

- Native** low growing ground cover plant
- Prefers **shade to partial sun and moist** environments
- Will only grow to be 6-8 inches high
- Hard to find in nurseries
- Nectar source for many butterflies



Tropical Sage
Salvia coccinea



Native; Nectar plant for many butterflies

General Facts: Plant in partial sun to full sun. Needs medium moisture and reseeds readily once established. It may reach 5 to 6 feet high. This is a must for a butterfly garden.

White Plumbago
Plumbago scandens

General Facts:

- Native
- 3ft-10ft height & spread; Fast growing
- Withstands light frosts
- All parts of plant are poisonous**
- Host plant for Cassius Blue



Recommended Care:

- Full sun to partial shade
- Moderately drought tolerant
- Moderate pruning advised



Yellow Alder
Turnera ulmifolia



General Facts: Yellow Alder is a non-native plant that attracts many nectar feeders, especially butterflies. It is a perennial, dense, compact shrub that reaches 2½ feet in height. It should be planted in full to partial sun. Once established, it will bloom year round. Those in the full sun branch more and stay fuller than those in partial shade. Clear yellow flowers are produced daily, each lasting several hours before closing at night. New flowers open the next morning. Leaves stay dark green with little or no fertilizer. Requires medium water and is very hardy.