

BOTANICAL GARDENS AT HERITAGE PARK

Butterfly Garden Plants

It is important to note that if one wants to raise butterflies in their garden, then one must be willing to work with nature and not rely on certain pesticides. One must not expect to have a perfect garden as there will be times when butterfly larvae will be feeding and the plants will appear less than attractive.

Also interesting is that Butterflies "Nectar" or drink from different plants than they will lay their eggs on. When they Nectar, they get nourishment to carry them in flight and in reproduction. They also drink from muddy pond sides and rotting fruit. Some gardeners hang nectar stations to attract butterflies. Some are liquids, while others are filled with rotting fruit. Another source of nectar is sap oozing from various woody plants.

Eggs are laid on specific plants that the developing larvae must feed on as they molt between usually five instars of development. As caterpillars grow and feed, plants are left somewhat ravaged. Adult butterflies to emerge can be identified by the egg, caterpillar, or chrysalis found in the garden. It can take two to six weeks depending on the species.

Still other sturdier plants and even inanimate objects are used to tether chrysalis and pupae while awaiting the emergence of butterflies only to renew the process. The butterflies emerge and hang upside down as the excess fluid drips from their wings. Once dry, they are ready to flit about and become an education on lifecycles for all of us to enjoy.



411 Ball Street • 817.410.3350 • playgrapevine.com

Butterfly Plant List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Notes
Abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	Caprifoliaceae	N to Monarch
Acanthus	<i>Acanthus</i> spp.	Acanthaceae	L to Texas Crescent
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	Ulmaceae	L to Question Mark
Angel's Trumpet	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Solanaceae	L to Sphinx Moth
Anisacanthus	<i>Anisacanthus wrightii</i>	Acanthaceae	L to Crimson Patch & Texas Crescent
Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Oleaceae	L to Tiger Swallowtail
Autumn Sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>	Lamiaceae	N to many
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta gloriosa</i>	Asteraceae	L to Silvery Checkerspot
Black Jack Oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Fagaceae	L to Southern & White Hairstreak, Horace's & Juvenal's Duskywing
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Fagaceae	L to Banden & Edward's Hairstreak, Juvenal's & Sleepy Duskywing
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia</i>	Buddlejaceae	N to many
Butterfly Weed/Milk Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Asclepiadaceae	N to Monarch/L to Queen
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Rubiaceae	N to many
Cabbage/Kale/All Mustards	<i>Brassica</i> spp.	Brassicaceae	L to Cabbage & Checkered Whites
Candletree	<i>Cassia alata</i>	Fabaceae	L to Orange Barred & Cloudless Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak
Canna	<i>Canna</i> spp.	Cannaceae	L to Brazilian Skipper
Cedar Elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Ulmaceae	L to Question Mark
Chinquapin Oak	<i>Quercus muhlenbergia</i>	Fagaceae	L to Horace's Duskywing
Cleome	<i>Cleome spinosa</i>	Capparidaceae	L to Florida, Checkered, & Cabbage Whites
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos</i> spp.	Asteraceae	N to many
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Apiaceae	L to Black Swallowtail
Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Cornaceae	L to Spring & Sommer Azures
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Cupressaceae	L to Olive Juniper Hairstreak
Fall Aster	<i>Aster oblongiflora</i>	Asteraceae	N to many/L to Pearl Crescent
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Apiaceae	L to Swallowtails
Frog Fruit	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Verbenaceae	L to Phaon Crescent
Grasses (Various spp.)	Too many to list here.	Poaceae	L to Fiery Skipper, Sachem, Little Wood-Satyr & Wood Nymph
Hackberry	<i>Celtis</i> spp.	Ulmaceae	L to American Snout & Question Mark, Hackberry & Tawney Emperors
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.	Malvaceae	L to Common Checkered Skipper
Inland Sea Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolia</i>	Poaceae	L to Brill's & Roadside Skippers, Northern Pearly Eye
Junipers	<i>Juniperus</i> spp.	Cupressaceae	L to Olive Juniper Hairstreak
Lamb's Quarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Chenopodiaceae	L to Hayhurst's Scallopwing & Common Sootywing
Lantana	<i>Lantana camera</i>	Verbenaceae	N to many/ L to Gray Hairstreak
Lantana (Native)	<i>Lantana horida</i>	Verbenaceae	N to many/ L to Gray Hairstreak
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Poaceae	L to many Skippers
Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Fagaceae	L to Southern & White Hairstreak, & Horace's Duskywing
Mexican Mint Marigold	<i>Tagetes lucida</i>	Asteraceae	N to many
Mexican Petunia	<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i>	Acanthaceae	L to Texas Crescent
Mexican Plum	<i>Prunus Mexicana</i>	Rosaceae	L to Tiger Swallowtail
Mistflower	<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.	Asteraceae	N to many
Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron leucarpum</i>	Loranthaceae	L to Great Purple Hairstreak
Oaks	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Fagaceae	L to Horace's Duskywing
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Apiaceae	L to Black Swallowtail
Passion Vine/Maypop	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Passifloraceae	L to Gulf Fritillary/Variiegated Fritillary, & Zebra Longwing
Pentas	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	Rubiaceae	N/Monarchs/Swallowtails L to Sphinz Moth
Phlox (Garden)	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Polemoniaceae	N to Brush Foot
Poke Weed	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Phytolaccaceae	N to Brush Foot
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Fagaceae	L to Horace's & Juvinal's Duskywing
Powdery Thalia	<i>Thalia daelbata</i>	Marantaceae	L tp Brazilian Skipper
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinaceae purpurea</i>	Asteraceae	N/Monarch/Swallowtails/Queens/others
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Fabaceae	N to many/L to Henry's Elfin
Rue	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Rutaceae	L to Giant and Black Swallowtails
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Caprifoliaceae	N to Brush Foot
Shasta Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	Asteraceae	N to Brush Foot
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus Shumardii</i>	Fagaceae	L to White Hairstreak & Horace's Duskywing
Spiraea	<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Rosaceae	N to many
Texas Sage	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Schrophulariaceae	L to Theona Checkerspot
Sumac	<i>Rhus</i> spp.	Anacardiaceae	L to Red-banded Hairstreak
Turk's Cap	<i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i>	Malvaceae	N to Cloudless Sulphur, Gulf Fritillary Gray Hairstreak
Verbena	<i>Verbena</i> spp.	Verbenaceae	N to many
Vetch and clovers	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Fabaceae	N to Sulphurs/L to Clouded & Orange
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i>	Caprifoliaceae	N to Brush Foot
Western Soapberry	<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	Sapindaceae	L to Soapberry Hairstreak
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Fabaceae	L to Clouded Sulphurs/GrayHairstreak
Willow	<i>Salix</i> spp.	Salicaceae	L to Viceroy & Mourning Cloak
Winecup	<i>Callihroe involucrata</i>	Malvaceae	L to Common Checkered Skipper & Gray Hairstreak
Violets	<i>Viola odorata</i>	Violaceae	L to Variiegated Fritillary

N= Butterfly nectar source

Butterflies drinking

L= Larval food source.

Caterpillars eating

Certain species in the Botanical Gardens may not be listed here.