



# NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

4 Delaware Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 tel. 973-285-0907 fax 973-285-0936

## SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

by Rich Bailowitz and Jim Brock  
with contributions by Doug Danforth

### TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS

A number in front of a flower name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Numbers in "BLOOM SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.). Abbreviations: S = Spring, X = summer, F = Fall; A = alien species, N = native species.

	FLOWER	HEIGHT	COLOR	BLOOM SEASON	ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES	COMMENTS
N	Verbenas <i>Verbena</i>	1'	many	1-12	many	
N	Willow groundsel <i>Senecio salignus</i>	4'	yellow	2-4	many	
N	Southwestern vervain <i>Verbena gooddingii</i>	1'	purple	2-10	many	
A	Trailing lantana <i>Lantana montivideans</i>	2'	purple	1-12	many, especially Brush-foots	
N	Bee bush <i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	8'	white	S-F	Lycaenids (Gossamer Wings)	flowers have marvelous fragrance
N	Common dogweed <i>Dyssodia pentachaeta</i>	6-8"	yellow	S-F	Dainty Sulphur	primarily attracts Dainty Sulphur
N	Sweet bush <i>Bebbia juncea</i>	3'	yellow	S-F	Lycaenids (Gossamer Wings)	
A	Jupiter's beard <i>Centranthus rubria</i>	3'	white, purple	4-11	many	
A	Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	4'	many	4-11	many	
N	Kidneywood <i>Eysenhardtia orthocarpa</i>	10-15'	white	5-9	Lycaenids (Gossamer Wings)	fragrant flowers
A	Zinnias <i>Zinnia</i>	4'	many	5-10	many	
A	Red Mexican Bird of Paradise <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	7'	orange, red	5-10	Swallowtails Sulphurs	continuous bloom from May to October in full sun
N	Seep willow (Baccharis) <i>Baccharis glutinosa</i>	6-8'	white	7-9	many	
N	Desert broom <i>Baccharis sarothroides</i>	6-8'	white	9-10	many, especially Great Purple Hairstreak	

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

**TOP BUTTERFLY NECTAR FLOWERS**

(continued)

	<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>COLOR</b>	<b>BLOOM SEASON</b>	<b>ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
N	Rabbit brush <i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	4'	yellow	9-11	many	perhaps the best fall nectar flower

**NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION**

Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

<b>FLOWER</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
None to list.	

**TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS**

A number in front of a plant name indicates a particularly recommended plant (1 = most recommended). Abbreviations: A = alien species, N = native species.

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
A 3	Baja fairy duster <i>Calliandra californica</i>	6'	Marine Blue Ceraunus Blue	caterpillars associated with ants
A	Citruses <i>Citrus</i>	5-20'	Giant Swallowtail	
N 2	Common dogweed <i>Dyssodia pentachaeta</i>	6-8"	Dainty Sulphur	
N 2	Desert senna <i>Senna covesii</i>	18"	Cloudless Sulphur Sleepy Orange	eats flowers eats leaves
N	Fern acacia <i>Acacia angustissima</i>	2-3'	Mexican Yellow Acacia Skipper	
N	Green spangletop <i>Leptochloa dubia</i>	1-2'	Violet-clouded Skipper	caterpillars make nest
A	Honeysuckle <i>Justicea spicigera</i>	2-3'	Texan Crescent	
N 2	Kidneywood <i>Eysenhardtia orthocarpa</i>	10-15'	Marine Blue Ceraunus Blue	
N	Mallow <i>Abutilon abutiloides</i>	2-5'	Arizona Powdered-Skipper	caterpillars make nest
N	Mallow <i>Herrisantia crispa</i>	1'	Erichson's White-Skipper	caterpillars make nest

## TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

(continued)

	NAME	HEIGHT	BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS	COMMENTS
N	Pigweed <i>Chenopodium fremontii</i>	2-3'	Golden-headed Scallopwing	caterpillars make nest
A 2	Passion vines <i>Passiflora</i>	vines	Gulf Fritillary	
N	Seep willow <i>Baccharis glutinosa</i>	6-8'	Fatal Metalmark	See "FLOWERS"
N 1	Senna <i>Senna leptocarpa</i>	3-4'	Cloudless Sulphur Sleepy Orange	
N	Side oats grama <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	1'	Orange Skipperling	(a grass)
N	Slender milkweed <i>Asclepias angustifolia</i>	2-3'	Queen	
N	Twin seed <i>Dicliptera resupinata</i>	18"	Texan Crescent	

## COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

A number in front of a butterfly name indicates a particularly likely species (1 = most expected to be seen). Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.).

	NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
1	Pipevine Swallowtail <i>Battus philenor</i>	1-12	1-12	pipe vines	
1	Giant Swallowtail <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	3-11		plants in Citrus Family	at low elevations
	Southern Dogface <i>Colias cesonia</i>	1-12	1-12	legumes	at low elevations
1	Cloudless Sulphur <i>Phoebis sennae</i>	1,3-12		sennas	
3	Boisduval's Yellow <i>Eurema boisduvaliana</i>	3-11		sennas	
2	Mexican Yellow <i>Eurema mexicana</i>	1-12	1-12	Fern acacia	at mid-elevations in mountains
1	Sleepy Orange <i>Eurema nicippe</i>	1-12	1-12	sennas	
1	Dainty Sulphur <i>Nathalis iole</i>	1-12	1-12	Dogweed	

**COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD***(continued)*

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
3 Great Purple Hairstreak <i>Atlides halesus</i>	2-11		mistletoes	
1 Gray Hairstreak <i>Stymon melinus</i>	1-12	1-12	many legumes	
2 Leda Hairstreak <i>Ministrymon leda</i>	4-12		mesquites	at low elevations
1 Marine Blue <i>Leptotes marina</i>	1-12	1-12	legumes in flower	at low elevations
2 Ceraunus Blue <i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>	1-12	1-12	Indigo bush	
3 Reakirt's Blue <i>Hemiargus isola</i>	1-12	1-12	acacias and related	
3 Fatal Metalmark <i>Calephelis nemesis</i>	1-12	1-12	Seep willow	
3 Palmer's Metalmark <i>Apodemia palmeri</i>	4-11		mesquites	
1 American Snout <i>Libytheana carinenta</i>	1-12		hackberries	
1 Gulf Fritillary <i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	1-12	1-12	passion vines	at low elevations
3 Bordered Patch <i>Chlosyne lacinia</i>	1-11		sunflowers	
3 Tiny Checkerspot <i>Dymasia dymas</i>	1-12	1-12	plants in Acanthus Family	
1 Texan Crescent <i>Phyciodes texana</i>	1-12	1-12	Twin seed	
3 Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	1-12	1-12	many, esp. mallows, composites, legumes	
California Sister <i>Adelpha bredowii</i>	4-12		oaks	at mid-elevations in mountains
1 Queen <i>Danaus gilippus</i>	1-12	1-12	milkweeds	
Dull Firetip <i>Pyrrhopyge araxes</i>	7-10		oaks	at mid-elevations in mountains
Golden-banded Skipper <i>Autochton cellus</i>	6-9		legumes	at mid-elevations in mountains
Northern Cloudywing <i>Thorybes pylades</i>	4-9		legumes	at mid-elevations in mountains
3 Acacia Skipper <i>Cogia hippalus</i>	3-10		Fern acacia	

**COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD***(continued)*

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
2 Golden-headed Scallopwing <i>Staphylus ceos</i>	2-11		pigweeds	
3 Arizona Powdered-Skipper <i>Systacea zampa</i>	1-12	1-12	mallows	
3 Funereal Duskywing <i>Erynnis funeralis</i>	1-12	1-12	New Mexico locust and other legumes	
2 'White' Common Checkered-Skipper <i>Pyrgus communis (albescens)</i>	1-12	1-12	mallows	
2 Orange Skipperling <i>Copaeodes aurantiacus</i>	1-12	1-12	grasses	
2 Fiery Skipper <i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	1-12	1-12	Bermuda grass	
3 Violet-clouded Skipper <i>Lerodea arabus</i>	2-6,8-12		grasses	

**LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD**

Numbers in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the month (4 = April, 5 = May, etc.), with < meaning earlier in the month, m the middle of the month, and > late in the month.

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Two-tailed Swallowtail <i>Papilio multicaudata</i>	2-11		ashes	
Sara Orangetip <i>Anthocharis sara</i>	1-4		native herbs in Mustard Family	
Large Orange Sulphur <i>Phoebis agarithe</i>	6-11		Feather tree	
Lyside Sulphur <i>Kricogonia lyside</i>	7-12		members of Caltrop Family	
Spring Azure <i>Celastrina ladon</i>	1-12		many plants	
Elf <i>Microtia elva</i>	8-10		members of Acanthus Family	
Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i>	1-12	1-12	plants in Snapdragon and Plantain Families	
Empress Leilia <i>Asterocampa leilia</i>	2-12		hackberries	

## LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

NAME	FLIGHT PERIOD	CATERPILLAR SEASON	CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS	COMMENTS
Arizona Skipper <i>Codatractus arizonensis</i>	3-10		Kidneywood	
Erichson's White-Skipper <i>Heliopetes domicella</i>	5-6,9-10		mallows	

## GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

**USDA ZONE:** 8 (colder at higher elevations)

The varied topography and mild climate result in a great diversity of plants and butterflies, as well as a long annual season to enjoy them in. The broad low elevations support desert, but the mountain ranges that dot the area support forests, with type depending on elevation. Freezing nights occur frequently in the winter. Spring is usually hot and dry. The main rainy season occurs in July and August, but is unpredictable in length and total rainfall. Fall is typically pleasant and dry.

Copyright © 1996 by the North American Butterfly Association, Inc. All rights reserved.