



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

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

SOUTHWEST OREGON

by Jim Becker

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.); letters correspond to the season (S=Spring, X=Summer, F=Fall). Abbreviations: A = alien species, A* = alien species (but native elsewhere in North America), N = native species.

| | FLOWER | HEIGHT | COLOR | BLOOM SEASON | ATTRACTED BUTTERFLIES | COMMENTS |
|-----|---|--------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A | Thyme <i>Thymus</i> cultivars | 2-12" | white,pink | S-X | many | hardy to zones 5-7 |
| A | Golden marguerite <i>Anthemis tinctoria</i> | 2' | yellow | late S | many | hardy to zone 5 |
| A* | Butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | 2' | orange | X | Swallowtails, Monarch | hardy to zone 3 |
| A | Elecampane <i>Inula helenium</i> | 4-6' | yellow | X | Checkerspots | hardy to zone 3 |
| A* | Gayfeather (blazingstar) <i>Liatris spicata</i> | 2-3' | pink | X | many | hardy to zone 3 |
| A | Lavender <i>Lavendula angustifolia, x intermedia</i> | 2-3' | purple | X | very many & diverse species | hardy to zone 5 |
| A* | Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | 2-3' | purple | X | Swallowtails | hardy to zone 3 |
| A | Verbena 'Homestead Purple' | 1-2' | purple | X | many | hardy to zone 8 |
| A | Annual statice <i>Limonium sinuatum</i> | 2-3' | white,pink, purple,yellow | X-F | very many | half-hardy annual |
| A 2 | Butterfly bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i> | 5-10' | white,pink, purple,yellow | X-F | very many | hardy to zone 5 |
| A | Globe amaranth <i>Gomphrena globosa</i> | 1-2' | white,pink, purple | X-F | very many | tender annual |
| A 1 | Winged everlasting <i>Ammobium alatum</i> | 2-3' | white | X-F | smaller species | perennial to zone 8 grow as annual |
| A 3 | Verbena <i>Verbena bonariensis</i> | 4-6' | purple | X-F | many | hardy to zone 8 or grow as annual |
| A | Mexican sunflower <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i> | 5-6' | orange | late X-F | many | half-hardy annual |

SOUTHWEST OREGON

NECTAR FLOWERS THAT DON'T WORK IN THIS REGION

| FLOWER | COMMENTS |
|--------------|----------|
| none to list | |

TOP CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS

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

| | NAME | HEIGHT | BUTTERFLY CATERPILLARS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---------|--------------------------|---|
| N | Artemisia <i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> | 3' | American Lady | |
| N | Buckbrush <i>Ceanothus</i> | various | California Tortoiseshell | these are shrubs and small trees |
| A | Fennel <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> | 3-4' | Anise Swallowtail | |
| A | Globe thistle <i>Echinops ritro, exaltatus</i> | 3' | Painted Lady | |
| A | High mallow <i>Malva sylvestris</i> | 3' | West Coast Lady | |
| A | Marsh mallow <i>Althaea officinalis</i> | 3' | West Coast Lady | |
| A | Milkweed: butterfly weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | 2' | Monarch | these alien milk- weeds are easy to grow in regularly watered garden conditions |
| A | Milkweed: Mexican <i>Asclepias curassavica</i> | 3' | Monarch | |
| A | Milkweed: swamp <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | 3' | Monarch | |
| N | Milkweed: showy <i>Asclepias speciosa</i> | 3' | Monarch | prefers drier summer conditions |
| A | Mugwort <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> | 4-6' | American Lady | |
| N | Pearly everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> | 18" | American Lady | |
| A | Plantain <i>Plantago major 'rubrifolia'</i> | 1' | Common Buckeye | red leaves are very attractive |

Note: Some potentially good caterpillar plants on which we don't notice activity include nettles (*Urtica dioica*), violets (*Viola*), asters (*Aster*), viburnum (*Viburnum*).

SOUTHWEST OREGON

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). Letters in "FLIGHT PERIOD" and "CATERPILLAR SEASON" correspond to the season (S = spring, X = summer, F = fall).

| NAME | FLIGHT PERIOD | CATERPILLAR SEASON | CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS | COMMENTS |
|--|---------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Anise Swallowtail <i>Papilio zelicaon</i> | S-X | S,F | members of parsley family | |
| Western Tiger Swallowtail <i>Papilio rutulus</i> | S-X | X-F | willow, poplar | our most common swallowtail |
| Pale Swallowtail <i>Papilio eurymedon</i> | S-X | X-F | wild cherry/plum buckbrush | |
| Sara Orangetip <i>Anthocharis sara</i> | S | S | members of mustard family | |
| Purplish Copper <i>Lycaena helloides</i> | X | S | members of knotweed family | |
| Mountain Mahogany Hairstreak <i>Satyrium tetra</i> | X | S | Mountain mahogany (<i>Cercocarpus</i>) | |
| Brown Elfin <i>Callophrys augustinus</i> | S | S | members of heath and other families | |
| Western Tailed-Blue <i>Everes amyntula</i> | S-X | | members of pea family | |
| Spring Azure <i>Celastrina ladon</i> | S-X | S-X | flowers in many families | very common |
| Mylitta Crescent <i>Phyciodes mylitta</i> | X | S | thistles | |
| Variable Checkerspot <i>Euphydryas chalcedona</i> | S | | members of snapdragon family | very sporadic |
| Mourning Cloak <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> | S | X | willow | |
| California Tortoiseshell <i>Nymphalis californica</i> | S | | buckbrush | |
| American Lady <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i> | X-F | | Artemisia, everlastings | |
| Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | X-F | | <i>Echinops</i> (and others) | |
| West Coast Lady <i>Vanessa annabella</i> | X-F | | mallows | |
| Common Buckeye <i>Junonia coenia</i> | X-F | | plantain | very sporadic |
| Lorquin's Admiral <i>Limenitis lorquini</i> | X-F | | willows | |
| California Sister <i>Adelpha bredowii</i> | X-F | | oaks | our common mud-puddler |

SOUTHWEST OREGON

COMMON BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

(continued)

| NAME | FLIGHT PERIOD | CATERPILLAR SEASON | CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS | COMMENTS |
|--|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Northwest' Common Ringlet <i>Coenonympha tullia ampelos</i> | S | | grasses | |
| Monarch <i>Danaus plexippus</i> | S-F | X-F | milkweeds | varies greatly among years* |
| Woodland Skipper <i>Ochlodes sylvanoides</i> | X | S | grasses | extremely abundant in mid-summer on lavenders |

*If we're lucky enough to get a fertilized female in our garden, which then lays eggs on our milkweeds, we have broods right through the summer. Some years, we never see any.

LOCAL & UNUSUAL BUTTERFLIES FOR YOUR GARDEN & YARD

| NAME | FLIGHT PERIOD | CATERPILLAR SEASON | CATERPILLAR FOOD PLANTS | COMMENTS |
|------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|
|------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|

None to list here. More and less common species included together in previous listing.

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT GARDENING IN THIS REGION

USDA ZONE: 7

Our gardens attract many species that breed in the abandoned pasture and woodland surrounding the garden, as well as ones breeding in the garden itself. The soil is decomposed granite. Approximately 35 inches of rain falls on average annually, all between October and May. Summers are hot and dry. Nectaring plants are scarce in midsummer.

We've noticed a real color preference for at least two common butterflies: The Western Tiger Swallowtail definitely prefers lavender and purple, though it will go to others. These include the native *Brodiaea* species as well as various Salvias, lavenders (*Lavandula*), fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), and butterfly bush (*Buddleia*). The Checkerspot (*Euphydryas*), with Variable Checkerspot (*E. chalcedona*) most common in our garden, absolutely prefer yellow, including the native *Wyethia*, as well as elecampane (*Inula helenium*), Golden Marguerite (*Anthemis tinctoria*), and various coreopsis.

Note: The author runs a nursery that stocks many of these plants (Goodwin Creek Gardens, P.O. Box 83, Williams, OR 97544; phone/fax: 541-846-7357).

Copyright © 1997 by the North American Butterfly Association, Inc. All rights reserved.