



Welcome to the Sunrise Dan Pearl Library Butterfly Garden!

Brief details are provided below about each plant, listed with their common and scientific name.

GARDEN PLANT LIST

- **Bahama Cassia** (*Cassia bahamensis*) is a tall upright shrub native to Florida with lovely yellow flowers. It attracts butterflies as a nectar source and is the larval host plant for Sulphur butterflies. Cassias can grow on a balcony as well as in a yard. It is a relatively short-lived plant and may begin to decline after only four or five years. This plant often has seedlings popping up nearby providing for a source of new plants and/or creating a potential weed problem.
- **Blue Porterweed** (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) is drought tolerant, and does well in poor soil. Plant in full sun to minimal shade. It is a nectar source for many butterfly species, and blooms year-round. It also does well in a container or in a mixed wildflower garden. The non-native (*Stachytarpheta cayennensis*) is often mistaken for the native species as both have the distinctive purplish-blue flowers. Be sure to purchase your plants from trusted sources to ensure you are getting the native species.
- **Coontie** (*Zamia integrifolia*) is a small "shrub" that grows very slowly to 2-1/2 to 3 feet tall by 3 feet wide. It can grow in full sun to full shade, and is drought-tolerant once established. These plants take very little care. It serves as the host plant for Atala butterfly caterpillars.
- **Corkystem passionflower** (*Passiflora suberosa*) is a vine that is low growing and will grow across the ground. It needs full sun to light shade in well-drained soil; once established, is very drought tolerant. It serves as the host plant for Zebra Longwing caterpillars.
- **Fakahatchee Grass** (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) is perennial grass that can be a great addition because it requires almost no maintenance. It can grow to be quite large up to 4-6 feet, so if you're short on space, there's a Dwarf Fakahatchee Grass (*Tripsacum floridanum*) that only grows to 2-3 feet.
- **Firebush** (*Hamelia patens*) is a hardy, fast-growing and showy evergreen shrub to small tree that can bloom all year. Its flowers attract both butterflies and hummingbirds. Its berries are eaten by a variety of birds and small mammals. It's one of Florida's best plants for attracting butterflies and birds. Plant in full sun for best flowering or partial shade.

- **Pineland Lantana** (*Lantana depressa*) is a drought-tolerant Florida native plant. It displays clusters of bright yellow flowers, has a low, trailing habit and blooms all year. Take care when choosing a lantana to not confuse the native plant with the varieties of multi-colored lantana that are not native and becoming invasive. To include native lantana in your landscape, visit a reliable native nursery.
- **Sea Oxeye Daisy** (*Borrchia frutescens*) is a highly drought-tolerant perennial small to medium shrub with attractive daisy-like blooms. Plant it in full sun to minimal shade. It is very attractive to butterflies and other pollinators as it can bloom year-round. Its seeds provide food for birds and other small wildlife. It works well as a border planting and in a mixed wildflower garden.
- **Simpson Stopper** (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) is an evergreen shrub or small tree that does best in full sun to partial shade. If left alone, it will grow into a small tree, but it can be pruned to any desired form. More sun exposure will contribute to a smaller form and will encourage more blooms. In the shade, Simpson's stopper may grow taller and have a straggly, untidy appearance. Its year-round blooms attract a variety of butterflies and bees; its fruit provides food for many bird species.
- **Tropical Milkweed** (*Asclepias curassavica*) is beautiful, but not native to Florida. There are varieties of milkweed that are native, like **Swamp Milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*), but may be more difficult to find. Milkweed is well known for attracting butterflies and serving as a host plant for their caterpillars. It does best in mixed butterfly and wildflower gardens planted in moist sunny landscapes, but can tolerate occasional drought once established. The plant does well in a container. This plant will be eaten down by caterpillars so you may want to "hide" it from view. **Caution: All milkweeds contain a toxic latex sap that may irritate skin.**
- **White Indigo Berry** (*Randia aculeata*) grows best in full sun to minimal shade. It is drought-tolerant and does well in nutrient-poor soils. The plants are often available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Its fragrant flowers bloom year-round, attracting a variety of butterflies. Its pulpy fruit provides food for many birds.

Search for more plant information:

- Natives For Your Neighborhood at www.regionalconservation.org
- UF IFAS Gardening Solutions at www.gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/

TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR OWN BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Choose a location that gets full sun.

Most adult butterflies prefer to feed in sunshine. South Florida's most common butterflies are Monarchs, Queens, Zebra Longwings, White Peacocks, Gulf Fritillaries and several varieties of Sulphurs and Swallowtails.

Select native plants that grow naturally in Florida.

Many butterflies and native plants have evolved by relying on each other to survive and reproduce. Look for local nurseries that carry native varieties like Blanket Flower, Pineland Lantana, Wild Plumbago, Blue Porterweed, and Firebush.

Plant larval host plants.

Caterpillars will eat these plants – that is what they are supposed to do, but that means the plants may be unsightly for an extended period of time. Select only larval host plants that have not been treated with pesticides. In your own garden, use pesticides sparingly, if at all. This means you will want to buy from native plant sales or local plant nurseries. Locally, you can reach out to the Florida Broward Butterfly Chapter or Broward Native Plant Society for recommendations and to connect with other butterfly enthusiasts.

Don't forget to plant shrubs and trees.

Flowers provide a food source but shrubs and trees protect caterpillars and butterflies from wind and predators.

Choose plants that bloom at different times.

Plants bloom at different times of the year, by choosing a variety of plants with different blooms times so your garden will provide a continuous source of nectar. In South Florida, some plants bloom all year like the Blanket Flower, Blue Porterweed, Firebush, and Pineland Lantana.