

Butterfly Garden Helpful Hints



<http://butterfly-lady.com/tag/puddling/>

Add a puddling dish

You can make a simple one by putting sand, gravel, and compost into a dish, such as a pot saucer. Then add water to make a shallow puddle.

Plant your garden in full sun

Plants, especially flowering plants, need sun to make food for themselves and nectar for butterflies. Butterflies also need sun to warm their bodies for flight.

Use colorful plants

Butterflies see more colors than humans do. They seem to prefer red, orange, yellow, purple and dark pink. A large, colorful garden is easy for butterflies to find and encourages them to stay longer.

Don't use chemical pesticides

Pesticides kill butterflies and caterpillars. Try these methods instead:

- *plant marigolds, petunias, mint and other herbs that naturally repel pests*
- *encourage ladybugs and dragonflies to dine in your garden*
- *wash pests away with insecticidal soap.*

More butterfly host and nectar plant information found at:

<http://counties.agrilife.org/harris/files/2011/05/bflygrdn.pdf>

Coastal Prairie Chapter Texas Master Naturalist



We are a group of trained volunteers who share our appreciation and knowledge of nature with the community through outreach, education and conservation/restoration projects.

Visit our website for more information:

txmn.org/coastal

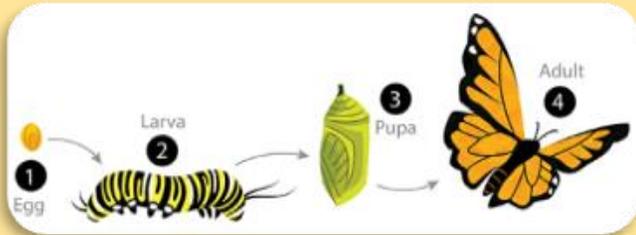


Good source for butterfly information
<https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>

Butterflies



Butterfly Metamorphosis



Complete metamorphosis begins with the insect hatching from an **egg** into a soft worm-like shape called a **larva**. **Larvae** have big appetites and can eat several times their own body weight every day.

Some larvae add more body segments as they grow. Scientists refer to these developmental changes as **instars** which is similar to how humans call their children **babies, toddlers, or teenagers**.

At the end of the larval stage the insect will make a hard shell and becomes a **pupa**. At this stage the larva will stop eating and moving. The pupa appears lifeless, but one of Nature's most amazing transformations is happening. Inside the pupa, the larva's body will completely change into a fully-grown **adult butterfly**. Once the adult leaves the pupa it slowly stretches out and relaxes under the sun for a couple of hours while its exoskeleton dries out and hardens.

Insects with complete metamorphosis include **beetles, bees, ants, butterflies, moths, fleas, and mosquitoes**.

<https://askabiologist.asu.edu/complete-metamorphosis>

Attracting Butterflies to your Yard with Native Plants

To attract butterflies, provide a variety of native plants. Butterflies need "host plants" to lay their eggs on and provide food for their caterpillars. Some have one host plant and others have several. Adult butterflies also need nectar plants.

Below are good host/nectar plants .

BUTTERFLY	HOST (LARVAL FOOD)	ADULT NECTAR SOURCES
Eastern Black Swallowtail	Parsley, dill, wild carrot, Dutchman's breeches, fennel, prairie parsley	Lantana, milkweed, clover, fruit tree blossoms, clover, mistflower, aster
Eastern Giant Swallowtail	Hop ash, citrus trees, Hercule's club, black cherry	Lantana, milkweed, coral honeysuckle, butterfly bush
Monarch	All milkweed species, inc. butterfly weed	Mistflower, lantana, sunflowers, frostweed, goldeneye
Cloudless Giant Sulpher	Partridge pea, senna	Turks cap, salvia, lantana, cardinal flower, hibiscus
Gulf Fritillary	Passion-vine, passion-flower, violets	Mistflower, lantana, aster, goldeneye, butterfly bus



<https://txmn.org/elmfork/enticing-north-texas-butterflies/>

BUTTERFLY	HOST (LARVAL FOOD)	ADULT NECTAR SOURCES
Buckeye	Parsley, dill, wild carrot, Dutchman's breeches, fennel, prairie parsley	Bidens, purple gerardia and composites, agalinis, dogbane
Queen	All milkweed species, inc. butterfly weed	Boneset, mistflower, milkweed, frog fruit
Viceroy	Cottonwood, willow, some fruit trees	Most nectar-producing plants
Question Mark	All elms (inc. cedar), hackberry, nettle	Aster, milkweed, inc. butterfly weed
Common Skipper	Hibiscus, mallow, hollyhock	Fleabane, dandelion, milkweed, aster, frog fruit
Fiery Skipper	Native grasses	Most nectar-producing plants
Zebra Longwing	Passion-vine, passion-flower	Lantana, mistflower, boneset, goldeneye
Checkered White	Mustards	Most nectar-producing plants