



Butterfly Gardening in Florida¹

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Background

Few outdoor activities are more rewarding and easily available than attracting butterflies to a well-designed butterfly garden. Creating a butterfly garden can be as simple as planting a windowsill box or as complex as landscaping many acres. To be successful in any situation, however, requires the correct choice of plants.

The total butterfly garden takes into account the food preferences of both adult butterflies and their caterpillars. Many butterfly species will drink nectar from a variety of flowering plants, but their caterpillars often are greatly limited in the number of plants on which they can feed. It is not necessary to plant larval food plants to attract butterflies, but adults tend to stay fairly close to the areas where their larval food plants can be found.

All of this requires planning. There are a few basic rules to follow. You can be as creative as you wish, but you must start with a plan that considers the requirements of the butterflies you wish to attract and the plants you will use to lure them.

Butterfly gardening is an exacting (not difficult) pursuit and must be based on butterfly preferences-not human ones. Luckily, butterfly and human favorites are mostly compatible.

Butterfly Facts and Biology

Of the 760 butterfly species that occur in North America, about 100 can be found in Florida. These do not include the skippers (of which Florida is home to an additional 70 species). Skippers, which are not listed in this publication, have relatively stout bodies and shorter wings than true butterflies. Moths are different from butterflies and skippers by having fluffy antenna instead of a club at the end. Other differences are that moths are active at night, and tend to hold their wings open while feeding or resting.

There are four stages in the amazing butterfly life cycle: egg, larva, chrysalis (resting), and adult. Butterfly eggs are laid on the larval food plant and caterpillars emerge within a few days. Some species overwinter in this stage. These larva have enormous appetites and do nothing but eat. When their skin is stretched as far as possible, they molt or shed that skin. After a few molts, they seek a sheltered place. Some spin a safety belt that holds them upside down

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on a twig or similar object, while others hang on with special hooks on their abdomen. At this time, the final molt takes place and the larva skin is replaced with a stiff butterfly chrysalis (pupa). During this stage, the once worm-like caterpillar transforms into a beautiful, flying adult.

Butterflies

Most adult butterflies found in Florida feed on flower nectar. Some visit a variety of flowers and others seem to prefer a more specialized menu. Butterflies generally are attracted to brightly colored simple flowers that are not too deep and that are wide enough for good perching platforms. Universal nectar favorites include: phlox, zinnias, asters, marigolds, daisies, coneflowers, black-eyed Susan, milkweeds, thistles, and butterflybush. Flowers in the composite family (e.g. daisies and asters) and flowers in clusters (e.g. milkweed and viburnum) also are good. Double-flowered varieties of cultivated flowers are never as good as the single ones.

White varieties are inferior to other colors as far as butterflies are concerned. A wide assortment of flowers is preferable to having just a few different kinds or a variety of similar flower types. As a rule, small butterflies nectar from small flowers and large butterflies nectar from larger ones. Flowers that produce the most scent generally furnish the most nectar. Nectar also should be available for the greatest number of months possible. Therefore, it is best to choose your flowers so that at least some of them are always blooming. Remember that many flowers are not designed to be pollinated by butterflies and are seldom, if ever, visited by them.

Adults of some butterfly species rarely visit flowers but instead are attracted to aphids, manure, rotting fruit, mud, or tree sap.

Caterpillars

Larval (caterpillar) food plants must be tailored to specific butterflies. Some plants are hosts to several different butterflies (e.g., passion vine), but often each species requires its own plant. So, unless you have acres of land at your disposal, you will have to be selective in your plantings for specific butterflies. You also must remember that these plants ultimately will be chewed on if you are successful.

Birds and other predators are quick to eat these larva so few reach adulthood or get large enough to do extensive damage. In fact, very few butterfly species (unlike moths) cause significant problems to vegetable gardens. Most feed singly or in small groups, as their eggs are laid. Most butterfly gardeners are quite pleased to share their carrots and dill for the pleasure of the company of black swallowtails; they simply plant some extra for the caterpillars. If you must use insecticides, use them sparingly as they are just as deadly to butterflies as they are to other insects.

Planning Your Garden

Butterfly Basics

You can't attract butterfly species that are not present naturally in your region, nor can you grow plants that aren't adapted to the soils and climate in your region of the state. Butterfly gardening should not try to improve nature but complement it as the best horticultural practices have always done. Follow these easy steps to plan your garden.

Your Butterfly Region Map

Look at the map provided (Figure 1) and determine the region in which you live.

Your Butterfly Region Table(s)

Then, look for your region in the Florida butterflies tables (Tables 1-9), highlight the species that occur in your area, and use habitats that can be found within 1/4 mile of the site you are considering for your butterfly garden.

Butterfly nectar plants by region. Table 10 lists butterfly nectar plants for north and central Florida (regions 1-4). Table 11 lists butterfly nectar plants for south Florida regions 5-7).

Keys to using the tables

Determine the larval and adult foods for each species from the tables. Butterflies tend to stay fairly close to the areas where their natural larval food plants can be found.

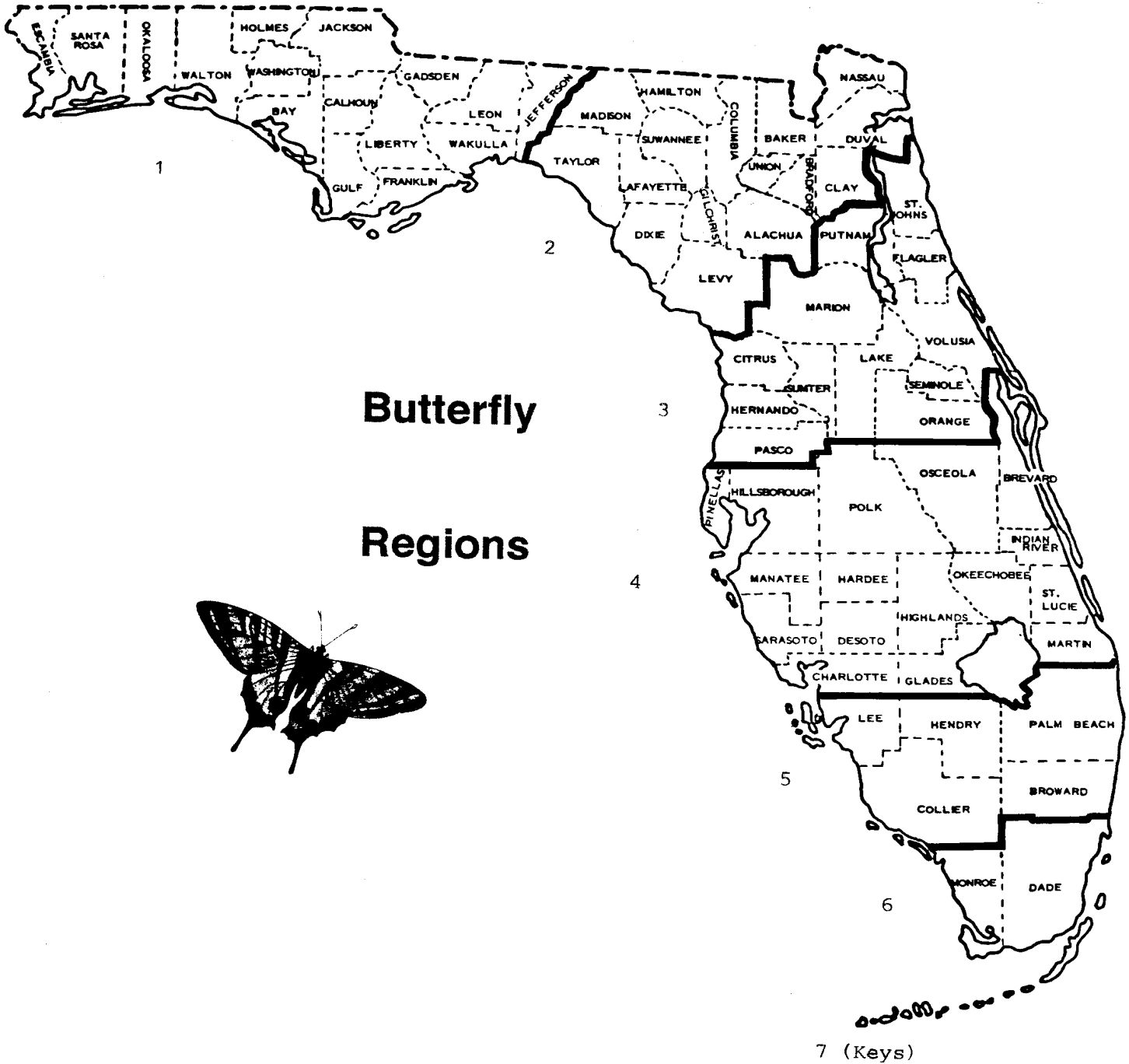


Figure 1.

The "flight season" indicates the months when the adults are active.

Note: If you are not interested in trying to attract the greatest variety of butterflies, you can select plants from the butterfly nectar sources listed at the end of this publication. This approach also will help

you to create a beautiful garden that also is appealing to some butterfly species.

Keys to the tables

Table 1. Swallowtails

Table 2. Sulfurs, Whites, and Orange-tip Butterflies

Table 3. Hairstreaks, Coppers, and Blue Butterflies

Table 4. Metalmark Butterflies

Table 5. Snout Butterflies

Table 6. Brushfooted Butterflies

Table 7. Goatweed Butterflies

Table 8. Nymphs and Satyrs

Table 9. Milkweed Butterflies

Table 10. Butterfly Nectar Plants. North and Central Florida: Regions 1 - 4.

Table 11. Butterfly Nectar Plants. South Florida: Regions 5 - 7.

Selected References

Gerberg, E. J., and R. H. Arnett, Jr. 1989. Florida butterflies. Natural Science Publications, Inc., Baltimore. 90 pp.

Howe, W. H. 1975. The butterflies of North America. Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City. 633 pp.

Table 1. Swallowtails

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities.			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Pipevine Swallow	1-4	Fields, gardens, wetlands, orchards	Feb.-Nov.
Larval Foods: Herbaceous plants--Dutchman's pipe (<i>Aristolochia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods-Flowers, nonspecific			
Gold Rim Swallowtail	1-5	disturbed areas, gardens, fields	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous plants-Dutchman's pipe (<i>Aristolochia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines-Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>)			
Zebra swallowtail	1-7	wetlands	March-Dec.
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines-Pawpaw (<i>Asimina</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods-Flowers, nonspecific			
American swallowtail	1-7	open areas	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous plants-Parsley (<i>Umbelliferae</i>)* and Wild carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods-Flowers, nonspecific			
Giant swallowtail	1-7	open areas, forest edges, citrus groves	All year
Larval Foods: Trees-Citrus trees (<i>Citrus</i> spp.)* and Common hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>); Shrubs and Vines-Torchwood (<i>Amyris elemifera</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods-Flowers, nonspecific and manure			
Schaus' swallowtail	7	tropical hammocks	May-July
Larval Foods: Trees-Bay, red (<i>Persea borbonia</i>); Shrubs and Vines-Torchwood (<i>Amyris elemifera</i>)			
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Eastern tiger swallowtail	1-6	open areas, orchards, gardens	March-Nov.
Larval Foods: Trees-Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.), Plums (<i>Prunus</i> spp.), Yellow poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other adult foods-Carrion, flowers-nonspecific, and mud			
Spicebush swallowtail (Figure 2)	1-7	forest edges, wetlands, fields, gardens	March-Dec.
Larval Foods: Trees-Bays (<i>Persea</i> spp.), Camphor tree (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> **), Pines (<i>Pinus</i> spp.), Prickly ash (<i>Zanthoxylum coriaceum</i>), Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>); Shrubs and Vines-Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>)			
Adult Foods: Flowers, nonspecific and Mud			

Table 1. Swallowtails

<p><i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities.</i></p>			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Laurel swallowtail	1-6	swamps	March-Dec.
<p>Larval Foods: Trees-Avocado (<i>Persea americana</i>)*, Bay, red (<i>Persea borbonia</i>), Bays (<i>Persea</i> spp.), Sweet bay (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Flowers, nonspecific and Mud</p>			

Table 2. Sulfurs, Whites, and Orange-tip Butterflies

<p><i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities</i></p>			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Florida white	5-7	hardwood hammocks, wetlands	All year
<p>Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Capers (<i>Capparis</i> spp.), Guiana plum (<i>Drypetes lateriflora</i>)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Unknown</p>			
Checkered white	1-7	disturbed areas, fields	March-Nov.
<p>Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Mustards (Cruciferae), Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>), Spider flower (<i>Cleome spinosa</i>)*</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Mustards (Cruciferae), Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>)</p>			
European cabbage butterfly	1-7	gardens, fields	March-Nov.
<p>Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Mustards (Cruciferae), Nasturtiums (Tropaeolaceae)*, and Watercress (<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>)*</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Unknown</p>			
Great southern white	2-7	beaches, salt marshes, coastal strand	All year
<p>Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Mustards (Cruciferae), Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>), Saltwort (<i>Batis maritima</i>), Spider flower (<i>Cleome spinosa</i>)*</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific</p>			
Falcate orange tip	Liberty County	deciduous forests, oak-pine forests	March-April
<p>Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Avocado (<i>Persea americana</i>), Bittercress (<i>Cardamine</i> spp.), Mustards (Cruciferae)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>)</p>			
Orange sulfur butterfly	1-7	open areas, alfalfa fields	March-Dec.
<p>Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Beans (Fabaceae), Clover, sweet (<i>Melilotus</i> spp.), Vetch (<i>vicea</i> spp.)</p>			

Table 2. Sulfurs, Whites, and Orange-tip Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific and Mud			
Common sulfur	1-2	open areas, pastures	March-Dec.
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Clover, white (<i>Trifolium</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Eastern dogface	1-6	sandhills, scrub, flatwoods	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Dalea (<i>Dalea</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i>)*, Clover, sweet (<i>Melilotus</i> spp.), Lead plant (<i>Amorpha</i> spp.), Soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>)*			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Dalea (<i>Dalea</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i>)*, Clover, sweet (<i>Melilotus</i> spp.), Lead plant (<i>Amorpha</i> spp.), Soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>)*			
Large orange sulfur	4-7	scrub	March-Dec.
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Blackbeard (<i>Pithecellobium keyense</i>), Cat claw (<i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Senna (<i>cassia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Hibiscus (<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.)			
Cloudless sulfur	1-7	open areas, gardens, beaches, wetlands	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Clovers (<i>Trifolium</i> spp.), Partridge pea (<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>), Senna (<i>cassia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Geiger tree (<i>Cordia sebestena</i>); Shrubs and Vines--Lantana (<i>Lantana</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--Hibiscus (<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.)			
Orange barred sulfur	4-7	gardens, scrub	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Poinsettia (<i>Poinsettia pulcherrima</i>), Senna (<i>cassia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific and mud			
Migrant sulfur	4-7	coastal strand, keys, beaches	Feb.-Nov.
Larval Foods: Trees--Lignum vitae (<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>); Shrubs and Vines--False violet (<i>Dalbergia ecastophyllum</i>)			
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Guayacan sulfur	5-7	open areas	May-August
Larval Foods: Trees--Lignum vitae (<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Mangrove, black (<i>Avicennia germinans</i>); Herbaceous plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Barred sulfur	1-7	beaches, scrub, disturbed areas	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous plants--Beans (Fabaceae), Pencil flower (<i>Stylosanthes biflora</i>), Shy leaves (<i>Aeschynome viscidula</i>)*			

Table 2. Sulfurs, Whites, and Orange-tip Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Adult Foods: Herbaceous plants--Beans (Fabaceae)*, Pencil flower (<i>Stylosanthes biflora</i>), Shy leaves (<i>Aeschynomene viscidula</i>)*			
Little sulfur	1-7	disturbed areas, open areas, fields	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Legumes (Fabaceae); Herbaceous plants--Clovers (<i>Trifolium</i> spp.), Senna (<i>Cassia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
Bush sulfur	5-7	flatwoods, fields	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Mexican alvaradoa (<i>Alvaradoa amorphoides</i>)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae)			
Blacktip sulfur	6-7	forest edges	May-Dec.
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Sensitive plant (<i>Mimosa pudica</i>)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae)			
Rambling orange	1-7	fields, forest edges, scrub, sandhills	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Clovers (<i>Trifolium</i> spp.), Partridge pea (<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>), Senna (<i>Cassia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*; Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
Dainty sulfur	2-7	disturbed areas, pastures	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Asters, smooth-leaved (Asteraceae), Common chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>), Marigold, bur (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>), Marigold, garden varieties (<i>Tagetes</i> spp.)*, Sneezeweed (<i>Helenium autumnale</i>)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Asters, smooth-leaved (Asteraceae), Common chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>), Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*, Marigold, garden varieties (<i>Tagetes</i> spp.)*, Sneezeweed (<i>Helenium autumnale</i>)			

Table 3. Hairstreaks, Coppers, and Blue Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
The harvester	Local distribution in panhandle, Jacksonville, Tampa and Orlando areas	Wetlands, swamps	Feb.-Dec.
Larval Foods: Animals--Aphids on alders, witch hazel, wild currants, hawthorn, beech, ash and other plants			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Aphid honeydew and Manure			

Table 3. Hairstreaks, Coppers, and Blue Butterflies

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Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Coontie hairstreak	5-7	Forest edges, Hammocks	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Coontie (<i>Zamia floridana</i>)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Saw palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>), scrub palmetto (<i>Sabal etonia</i>)			
Great blue hairstreak	1-3	Hammocks	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Mistletoe (<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Plums (<i>Prunus</i> spp.), Hercules-club (<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>); Shrubs and Vines--Frog fruit (<i>Lippia nodiflora</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Verde azul hairstreak	7	Hammocks	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Lead tree (<i>Albizia lebeck</i>)*			
Adult Foods: Trees--Brazilian peppertree (<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> **); Shrubs and Vines--Sweet pepper bush (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>); Herbaceous plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Silver banded hairstreak			
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Heart seed (<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
Coral hairstreak	Tallahassee	Deciduous forest edges	May-July
Larval Foods: Trees--Cherries (<i>Prunus</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous plants--Butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)			
Banded hairstreak	1-3	Deciduous forests	April-June
Larval Foods: Trees--Hickories (<i>Carya</i> spp.), Oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.), Walnuts (<i>Juglans</i> sp.)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous plants--Indian hemp (<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>), Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.); Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
Sweetleaf hairstreak	1	Coastal strand, hammocks, swamps	May-June
Larval Foods: Trees--Sweetleaf (<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i>); Shrubs--Azaleas (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)			
Striped hairstreak	1-3	Deciduous forests, fields, disturbed areas	May-June
Larval Foods: Trees--Hawthorns (<i>Crataegus</i> spp.); Shrubs and Vines--Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous plants--Clover, white sweet (<i>Melilotus</i> spp.), Indian hemp (<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>), Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)			
Tiny hairstreak	6-7	fields	April-Dec.
Larval Foods: Trees--Lead tree (<i>Albizia lebeck</i>)*, wild tamarind (<i>Lysiloma latisiliqua</i>)			

Table 3. Hairstreaks, Coppers, and Blue Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Scrub palmetto (<i>Sabal etonia</i>); Herbaceous plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Red banded hairstreak	1-7	open areas, forest edges	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.); Shrubs and Vines--Croton (<i>Croton</i> spp.), Sumac, winged (<i>Rhus copallina</i>), Wax myrtle (<i>Myrica cerifera</i>)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Cherry (<i>Prunus</i> spp.); Shrubs and Vines--Sweet pepperbush (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Indian hemp (<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>), Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)			
Cedar hairstreak	1-3	fields, coastal hammocks, dunes	Feb.-Sept.
Larval Foods: Trees--Cedar, southern red (<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>), Cedar, eastern red (<i>Juniperus, virginiana</i>)*			
Adult Foods: Trees--Plum, wild (<i>Prunus americana</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
White cedar hairstreak	Liberty and Santa Rosa counties	bogs and swamps	April-July
Larval Foods: Trees--Cedar, Atlantic white (<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific and Mud			
Woodland elfin	1-3	coastal strand, sandhills, oak-pine forests	Feb.-April
Larval Foods: Trees--Dahoon (<i>Ilex cassine</i>), Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>); Shrubs and Vines--Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.), Persimmon (<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific and Mud			
Eastern pine elfin	2	sandhills, oak-pine forests	March-April
Larval Foods: Trees--Pines (<i>Pinus</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific and Mud			
Southern oak hairstreak	1-7	hammocks	March-May
Larval Foods: Trees--Oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Oak, chinquapin (<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>); Shrubs and Vines--Viburnum (<i>Viburnum</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--Clover, sweet (<i>Mellilotus</i> spp.)			
White M hairstreak	1-7	hammocks, sandhills, scrub	March-Dec.
Larval Foods: Trees--Oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>), Sweet pepperbush (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>), Viburnum (<i>Viburnum</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)			
Gray hairstreak	1-7	sandhills, disturbed areas, flatwoods	April-Oct.
Larval Foods: Trees--Hawthorns (<i>Crataegus</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants -Beans (Fabaceae), Mallows (Malvaceae), Mints (Lamiaceae)			

Table 3. Hairstreaks, Coppers, and Blue Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
Blue and gray hairstreak	5-7	open fields along the coast	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Trema, florida (<i>Trema micrantha</i>); Shrubs and Vines--Bay cedar (<i>Suriana maritima</i>)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Brazilian peppertree (<i>Schinus terbinthifolius</i> **); Shrubs and Vines--Bay cedar (<i>Suriana maritima</i>), Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Bartram's hairstreak	5-7	hammocks	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Croton, narrow leafed (<i>Croton linearis</i>)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Croton, narrow leafed (<i>Croton linearis</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Dotted hairstreak	5-7	fields	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Avocado (<i>Persea americana</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Mallows (Malvaceae), Mints (Lamiaceae)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
Fulvous hairstreak	6-7	coastal strand, hammocks, wetlands	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Brazilian peppertree (<i>Schinus terbinthifolius</i> **); other unknown			
Adult Foods: Trees--Brazilian peppertree (<i>Schinus terbinthifolius</i> **); Shrubs and Vines--Sea grape (<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Eastern pigmy blue	East 2-3; West 1-7	salt marshes and tidal flats	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Glasswort, annual (<i>Salicornia bigelovii</i>)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Saw palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Saltwort (<i>Batis maritima</i>)			
Tropical striped blue	3-7	gardens, forest edges	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Leadwort, ornamental (<i>Plumbago capensis</i>)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Beans (Fabaceae)*, Clover, sweet (<i>Melilotus</i> spp.)			
Miami blue	6-7	fields	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Ballon vine (<i>Cardiospermum</i> spp.)*			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Southern blue	1	sandhills, beach	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Legumes (Fabaceae); Herbaceous Plants--Beans (Fabaceae); Partridge pea (<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)* ; Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			

Table 3. Hairstreaks, Coppers, and Blue Butterflies

<p><i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities</i></p>			
Species of Butterfly	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Eastern tailed blue	1-2	fields	Feb.-Nov.
<p>Larval Foods: Trees--Legumes (Fabaceae); Herbaceous Plants--Beans (Fabaceae); Clovers (<i>Trifolium</i> spp.)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific, Mud</p>			
Spring azure	1-2	hammocks, swamps	January-Oct.
<p>Larval Foods: Trees--Legumes (Fabaceae), Plums (<i>Prunus</i> spp.); Shrubs and Vines--Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.), Sumac, winged (<i>Rhus copallina</i>), Viburnum (<i>Viburnum</i> spp.)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.); Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific</p>			

Table 4. Metalmark Butterflies

<p><i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities</i></p>			
Species	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Little metalmark	1-7	sandhills, salt marsh, southern flatwoods	All year
<p>Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Thistle, yellow (<i>Cirsium horridulum</i>)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae)</p>			

Table 5. Snout Butterflies

<p><i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities</i></p>			
Species	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Snout butterfly	1-7	wetlands, deciduous forests	January-August
<p>Larval Foods: Trees--Hackberry (<i>Celtis</i> spp.)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Asters (Asterceae); Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific</p>			

Table 6. Brushfooted Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species	Region	Habitats	Flight Season
Gulf fritillary (Figure 3)	1-7	gardens, fields	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Passion flower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Orange long wing	5-7	hammocks, fields, gardens	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Maypops (<i>Passiflora</i> spp.), Passion flower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Zebra long wing	1-7	hammocks, fields, gardens	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Maypops (<i>Passiflora</i> spp.), Passion flower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)			
Adult Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Variegated fritillary	1-7	open areas	March-Dec.
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Passion flower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>); Herbaceous Plants--Beggar's tick (<i>Desmodium</i> spp.), Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), Spurges (Euphorbiaceae), Stonecrop (<i>Sedum</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
Streamside checkerspot	Marianna	deciduous forests	March-Sept.
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Asteraceae)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Clover, red (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>)*, Composites (Asteraceae), Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)			
Seminole crescent	1-3	wetlands	March-Nov.
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Alder, hazel (<i>Alnus serrulata</i>), Water willow (<i>Justicia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Black crescent	5-7	fields	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Shrimp plant (<i>Justicia brandegeana</i>)*			
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Mat plant crescent	1-7	swamps, bogs, marshes	March-Dec.
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Frog fruit (<i>Lippia nodiflora</i>)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae), Frog fruit (<i>Lippia nodiflora</i>)			

Table 6. Brushfooted Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species	Region	Habitats	Flight Season
Pearl crescent	1-6	swamps, fields, wetlands	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Asters, smooth leaved (Asteraceae)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae), Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)			
Question mark	1-4	deciduous forests, wetlands, orchards	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Elms (<i>Ulmus</i> spp.), Hackberry (<i>Celtis</i> spp.), Mulberries (<i>Morus</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--Parsley (Umbelliferae)*			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Carrion, Manure, Mud, Rotting fruit, Sap			
Comma angelwing	1-2	deciduous forests, wetlands, fields	May -Sept.
Larval Foods: Trees--Elms (<i>Ulmus</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--Nettles (Urticaceae)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Carrion, Mud, Rotting fruit, Sap			
Mourning cloak	Jacksonville, Tampa	deciduous forests, wetlands, gardens	Feb.-March
Larval Foods: Trees--Beech (<i>Fagus</i> spp.), Elms (<i>Ulmus</i> spp.), Hackberry (<i>Celtis</i> spp.), Hollies (<i>Ilex</i> spp.); Shrubs and Vines -Alder, hazel (<i>Alnus serrulata</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Decaying plants, Flowers, non specific, Mud, Sap			
American painted lady (Figure 4)	1-7	open areas, gardens, wetlands, fields	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Asters, smooth leaved (Asteraceae), Mallows (Malvaceae), Thistle, yellow (<i>Cirsium horridulum</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, non specific, Mud			
Red admiral	1-7	deciduous forests, fields, gardens, riparian	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Mulberries (<i>Morus</i> spp.); Herbaceous Plants--False nettle (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>), Nettles (Urticaceae)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Bird droppings, Rotting fruit, Sap			
The buckeye	1-7	wetlands, fields, open areas	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Acanthus (Acanthaceae), Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), Stonecrop (<i>Sedum</i> spp.), Vervains (Verbenaceae)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae)			
Black mangrove	5-7	mangrove swamps, tidal flats, fields	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Mangrove, black (<i>Avicennia germinans</i>); Shrubs and Vines--Blue porterweed (<i>Stachytarpheta</i> spp.); Herbaceous plants--Vervains (Verbenaceae)			

Table 6. Brushfooted Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species	Region	Habitats	Flight Season
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific			
White peacock	2-7	swamps, wetlands	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Figworts (Scrophulariaceae)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Marigold, bur or Spanish needle (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)*			
Malachite	5-7	Citrus groves, scrub	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Cajetin (<i>Blechum brownei</i>), Ruellia (<i>Ruellia</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific, Manure, Rotting fruit			
Red spotted purple	1-3	sandhills, flatwoods, forest edges, hammocks	March-Oct.
Larval Foods: Trees--Apples (<i>Malus</i> spp.), Cherries (<i>Prunus</i> spp.), Leadwort, ornamental (<i>Plumbago capensis</i>), Willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae); Other Adult Foods--Carrion, Manure, Rotting fruit, sap			
Viceroy	1-6	wetlands, marshes	April-Sept.
Larval Foods: Trees--Apples (<i>Malus</i> spp.), Cherries (<i>Prunus</i> spp.), Willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Carrion, Manure			
Large purplewing	5-7	coastal hammocks	July-May
Larval Foods: Trees--Crabwood (<i>Gymnanthes lucida</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Manure, Mud, Rotting fruit, sap			
Dingy purplewing	5-7	hammocks	May-Dec.
Larval Foods: Trees--Gumbo limbo (<i>Bursera simaruba</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Manure, Mud, Rotting fruit, sap			
Red dagger wing	3-7	hammocks, swamps	All year
Larval Foods: Trees--Fig (<i>Ficus</i> spp.), Short-leaf fig (<i>Ficus citrifolia</i>); Shrubs and Vines--Cashews (<i>Anacordium occidentale</i>)*			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.); Other Adult Foods--Mud, Rotting fruit			

Table 7. Goatweed Butterflies

<i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities</i>			
Species	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Goatweed butterfly	1-3	swamps, forest edges, fields	April-August
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Croton (<i>Croton</i> spp.), Croton, narrow leafed (<i>Croton linearis</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Bird droppings, Manure, Rotting fruit, Sap			
Florida leafwing	6-7	forest edges, scrub	All year
Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Croton, narrow leafed (<i>Croton linearis</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Manure, Rotting fruit			
Hackberry butterfly	1-7	deciduous forests, riparian	March-Nov.
Larval Foods: Trees -Elms (<i>Ulmus</i> spp.), Hackberry (<i>Celtis</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Carrion, Manure, Persimmons, Sap			
Tawny emperor	1-4	deciduous forests, riparian	March-Nov.
Larval Foods: Trees--Hackberry (<i>Celtis</i> spp.)			
Adult Foods: Trees--Hackberry (<i>Celtis</i> spp.); Other Adult Foods--Carrion, Manure, Rotting fruit, Sap			

Table 8. Goatweed Butterflies

<i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities</i>			
Species	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Southern pearly eye	1-3	hammocks, wetlands	April-Nov.
Larval Foods: Grasses--Switch cane (<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>), Grasses (Poaceae), Maidencane (<i>Panicum hemitomom</i>)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Carrion, Manure, Rotting fruit, Sap			
Woods eyed brown	1	swamps, bogs, wetlands	June-Oct.
Larval Foods: Grasses--Inundated beak-rush (<i>Rhynchospora inundata</i>)*			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Mud, Sap			
Jeweled satyr	1-3	tall grass fields, wetlands	Feb.-Nov.
Larval Foods: Grasses--Bermuda grass (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>)*			

Table 8. Goatweed Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Southern satyr	1-6	fields, hammocks, wetlands	All year
Larval Foods: Grasses--Grasses (Poaceae)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Rotting fruit, Sap			
Orange oval satyr	1-7	fields, sandhills, flatwoods	All year
Larval Foods: Grasses--Grasses (Poaceae)			
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Little wood satyr	1-2	fields, hammocks, wetlands	March-June
Larval Foods: Grasses--Grasses (Poaceae), Sedges (Cyperaceae)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Aphid honeydew, Sap			
Viola's wood satyr	1-3	grassy wooded areas	April
Larval Foods: Grasses--Grasses (Poaceae)			
Adult Foods: Unknown			
Common wood nymph	1-3	sandhills, fields, marshes, wetlands	June-July
Larval Foods: Grasses--Grasses (Poaceae)			
Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Rotting fruit			

Table 9. Milkweed Butterflies

Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities			
Species	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Monarch	1-7	fields, gardens	All year
Larval Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Indian hemp (<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>), Milkweed, scarlet (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>)*			
Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Composites (Compositae), Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)			

Table 9. Milkweed Butterflies

<p><i>Key for Larval and Adult Foods: * = non-native species; ** = non-native species, not recommended for planting because of its tendency to spread and adversely affect natural communities</i></p>			
Species	Regions	Habitats	Flight Season
Queen	1-7	fields, sandhills, flatwoods	All year
<p>Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>), White vine (<i>Sarcostemma clausum</i>)*; Herbaceous Plants--Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Herbaceous Plants--Frog fruit (<i>Lippia nodiflora</i>); Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)</p>			
Soldier	5-7	sandhills, flatwoods, fields, gardens	Feb.-Oct.
<p>Larval Foods: Shrubs and Vines--White vine (<i>Sarcostemma clausum</i>)*; Herbaceous Plants--Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.), West Indian pinkroot (<i>Spigelia anthelmia</i>)</p>			
<p>Adult Foods: Other Adult Foods--Flowers, nonspecific</p>			

Table 10. Butterfly Nectar Plants. North and Central Florida: Regions 1-4.

<p>* indicates non-native species</p>		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Season
<p>SHRUBS</p>		
False indigo bush*	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Summer-Fall
Tarflower	<i>Befaria racemosa</i>	Summer
Butterfly bush*	<i>Buddleia officianalis</i>	Spring-Fall
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Spring
False heather	<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	Spring-Winter
Garberia	<i>Garberia fruticosa</i>	Fall
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.	Spring-Winter
Lantana	<i>Lantana</i> spp.	Spring-Winter
Plumbago*	<i>Plumbago capensis</i>	Spring-Fall
Azalea	<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Spring
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> spp.	Spring
<p>PERENNIALS</p>		
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Summer-Fall
Aster	<i>Aster</i> spp.	Summer-Fall

Table 10. Butterfly Nectar Plants. North and Central Florida: Regions 1-4.

* indicates non-native species		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Season
Paint brush	<i>Carphephorus corymbosus</i>	Fall
Vanilla plant	<i>Carphephorus odoratissimus</i>	Fall
Golden aster	<i>Chrysopsis</i> spp.	Fall
Dalea	<i>Dalea</i> spp.	Fall
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Summer
Mistflower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Summer-Fall
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Blazing star	<i>Liatris</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Summer-Fall
Purple lobelia	<i>Lobelia puberula</i>	Summer-Fall
Mint*	<i>Mentha, Nepeta, others</i>	Spring-Fall
Pentas*	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	Spring-Fall
Phlox	<i>Phlox</i> spp.	Spring-Summer
Pennyroyal	<i>Piloblephis rigida</i>	Spring
Yellow coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Summer
Wild petunia	<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	Spring-Fall
Salvia (Sage)	<i>Salvia</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Sedum	<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	Fall-Winter
Rosinweed	<i>Silphium asteriscus</i>	Summer-Fall
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Stoke's aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Summer
Thyme*	<i>Thymus</i> spp.	Spring-Fall
Verbena	<i>Verbena</i> spp.	Spring-Fall
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia</i> spp.	Summer
ANNUALS		
Ageratum*	<i>Ageratum</i> spp.	Spring-Summer
Spanish needle	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Spring-Fall

Table 10. Butterfly Nectar Plants. North and Central Florida: Regions 1-4.

* indicates non-native species		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Season
Borage*	<i>Borage officinalis</i>	Summer-Fall
Shasta daisy*	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> spp.	Spring-Summer
Sweet William*	<i>Dianthus</i> spp.	Spring-Summer
Gaillardia	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Spring-Summer
Strawflower*	<i>Helichrysum</i> spp.	Spring-Summer
Phlox	<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	Summer
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Summer-Fall
Marigold (Mariateta)*	<i>Tagetes</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Clover	<i>Trifolium</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Zinnia*	<i>Zinnia</i> spp.	Summer-Fall

Table 11. Butterfly Nectar Plants. South Florida: Regions 5-7.

* indicates non-native species		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Season
TREES		
Bottlebrush*	<i>Callistemon</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Citrus*	<i>Citrus</i> spp.	Spring
SHRUBS		
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Summer
Geiger tree	<i>Cordia</i> spp.	Summer-Winter
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Summer-Winter
Lantana	<i>Lantana</i> spp.	Spring-Winter
PERENNIALS		
Scarlet milkweed*	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Summer-Fall
Florida or Blue sage	<i>Eranthemum nervosum</i>	Summer-Fall
Mistflower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Summer-Fall

Table 11. Butterfly Nectar Plants. South Florida: Regions 5-7.

* indicates non-native species		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Season
Blazing star	<i>Liatris</i> spp.	Summer-Fall
Pentas*	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	Summer-Fall
Pennyroyal	<i>Piloblephis rigida</i>	Spring
ANNUALS		
Beggar-ticks	<i>Bidens alba</i>	Summer-Fall
Red root	<i>Lachnanthes caroliniana</i>	Summer
Frog fruit	<i>Lippia nodiflora</i>	Spring-Fall