Plants that Attract Butterflies
Brazos County, Texas

To have habitat for butterflies our first concern is not using pesticides and herbicides. Next is providing both host plants for the caterpillars to eat and nectar plants for the adult butterflies. Plants attractive to butterflies need to be available year round. Due to long periods of little rain fall during some periods of the year it is necessary to have a source for supplemental watering. A drip water method will not wash nectar from the flowers.

Butterfly caterpillars are picky about what they eat depending on the kind of butterfly. An example is that our state insect the Monarch butterfly eats only milkweed. Butterflies like cluster flowers and patches of the same plant or color of flowers. Purple seems to be a favorite color.

This list of plants are easy to grow and generally available in the Brazos County area or could be ordered from Texas Native Plant Nurseries as seed or plants.

**Spring Plants**
- Fennel
- Dill
- Parsley
- Verbena
- Salvia greggi
- Columbine
- Milkweed
- Larkspur
- Yarrow
- Senna
- Hackberry
- Willow tree
- Black Swallowtail on Fennel

**Summer through Fall Plants**
- Black-eyed Susan
- Plumbago
- Goldenrod
- Pipe-vine
- Passion-vine
- Sedum
- Sunflower
- Hollyhock
- Coneflower
- Lantana
- Zinnia
- Candlestick (Cassia)
- Buddleia
- Mist flower
- Tithonia
- Partridge pea(Senna)
- Gomphrena
- Salvia
- Citrus
- Painted Lady on Black-eyed Susan
- Giant Swallowtail on Zinnia

**Winter Plants**
- Rosemary, Violets, Rue, Snapdragon

Some butterflies like over ripe fruit such as bananas and oranges. Some like wet soil for minerals. These are just some of the plants that can be used in butterfly gardens.

**Brazos Valley Butterflies**
These are some of the butterflies that are common in the Brazos Valley. Expect to see them at different times of the year.
- Gulf Fritillary
- Swallowtails
- Snouts
- Admiral
- Queen
- Skippers
- Monarch
- Sulphurs
- Tawny Emperor
- Hairstreaks
- Buckeye
- Painted Lady
- Fritillary on Passion-vine
- Monarch on Yarrow

Provided by A&M Garden Club for Brazos County, Texas
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