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# Design your own Butterfly Garden

- Design your garden so that the flowering plants are in a sunny location. Butterflies only actively feed when the sun is shining, therefore, flowers in shade will rarely be used. Flowering plants are also generally more likely to have more flowers in a sunny location. Protect your butterfly plants from windy conditions as this provides a better environment for the butterflies.
- It's good to have vegetation that blooms year round and ones with a staggered blooming season so there is food year round.
- Provide at least one puddle area since butterflies can't drink from open water. Wet sand, earth and mud are the best butterfly watering holes. You can make a watering station for butterflies by adding sand to the saucer of a birdbath to reduce the depth and add a rock to the center for a resting spot. A large clay saucer will do fine.
- Butterflies are territorial. If you want to, you could put plants for one butterfly in a section and plants for another type of butterfly in a different area. But it's perfectly all right to mix them through the area.
- Two months before planting, kill the grass and weeds growing in your garden area. Repeat the treatment in order to kill newly sprouted seedlings. This will help to insure that weeds do not overtake the desirable plant materials. Establish your garden design by laying out pathways and entryways and by situating it so that you can see the butterflies from your home or outdoor seating area.
- There are 160 species of butterflies in Florida and 10 are common in our area
- DO NOT use insecticides and herbicides in your habitat – it kills the eggs and caterpillars! = No butterflies!
- Hummingbirds go hand in hand with butterflies – the same plants often attract both. Hummingbirds are in the area in winter from November through February.
- Hummingbirds don't like to come closer than three feet to the ground, so they need tall bushes.

## PLANTS

**H** - Host plant = Eggs are laid on and larva feed on.  
**N** - Nectar = Adult butterflies eat its nectar.

### Must Have's

**H** Corky Stemmed Passion Vine (*passiflora suberosa*) – 4 butterflies lay eggs including Gulf Fritillary, Zebra longwing and Julia.

Wind Break Plants - around outside

- **Necklace pod** - *sophora tomentosa*
- **Peregrina** - *Jatropha integgerima*
- **Wild coffee** - *psychotria nervosa*
- **Cassia** - can't have too many cassia's
  - H Bahama Cassia** - *cassia bahamensis* Sulphurs, Cloudless Sulphur H&N
  - H Apple blossom Shower** - *Cassia javonica* Sulphurs
  - H Glaucous cassia** - *cassia surattensis* Sulphurs
  - H Desert cassia** - *senna polyphylla* Sulphurs
  - H Popcorn cassia** - *cassia didymobotrya* Sulphurs
  - H Privet cassia\*** - *cassia ligustrina* Sulphurs, Cloudless Sulphur H&N

\*Orioles love Sulphur butterfly cocoons, so Cassia's get Oriole nests!



**Blue porterweed** – *stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (verbenaceae). Nectar source for any butterfly in region. Nectar source for 6 butterflies, including Julia, Zebra Longwing, Swallowtail, Monarch, Gulf Fritillary, Cloudless Sulphur. Larval plant for Black mangrove buckeye butterfly. South Florida native, pine rockland plant.



**Coontie** – *zamia pumila*. Only native food for Florida Atala butterfly. Thought to be extinct, but coming back because butterfly people are planting coontie. South Florida native, pine rockland plant.



**Bahama Cassia** – *Cassia bahamensis*. And **Privet Cassia** – *Cassia ligustrina*. These trees are both the larval and nectar plant for Cloudless Sulphurs and Orange Barred Sulphurs. South Florida natives.



**Wild Lime** – *Zanthoxylum fagara*. Host and nectar plant for Giant Swallowtail and Schaus Swallowtail. South Florida native plant.



**Lantana depressa var. depressa**, Grand Lantana verbenaceae, Pineland Lantana. Lantana camara is the toxic berry, not this one. Nectar source for 6 butterflies including Zebra longwing, Large Orange Sulphur, Gulf Fritillary, Julia,

Giant Swallowtail, Eastern Black Swallowtail. South Florida native, pine rockland plant.



**Milkweed** – Cannot have enough milkweed. Three kinds; Scarlet (red) asclepias curasavica (also attracts hummingbirds), Striped (yellow), Tropical (giant).

• *Asclepias tuberosa* milkweed is also a nectar plant for Queens and Giant Swallowtails.

- Host Monarch butterfly – all milkweed.



**Fire Bush** – *Hamelia patens*. Nectar source for 5 butterflies – Zebra Longwing, Gulf Fritillary, Julia, Eastern Black Swallowtail, Large Orange Sulphur. South Florida native plant.



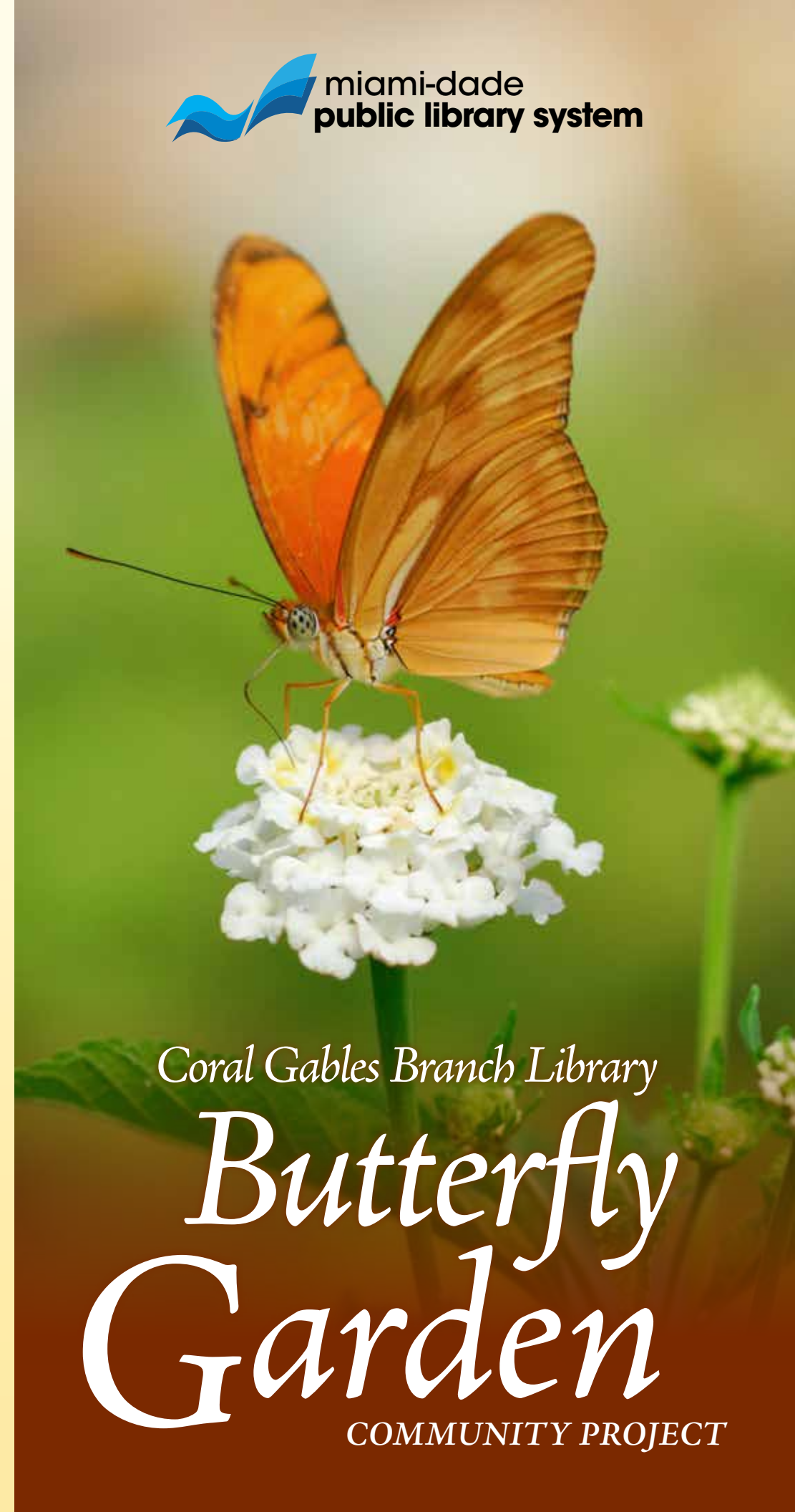
**Corky stemmed passion flower** – *passiflora suberosa* (passifloraceae). Important to butterfly tribe Heliconiini – larve of the tribe feed almost entirely on this including Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Julia or Orange Longwing, Zebra Longwing. Four butterflies larval plant. South Florida native, pine rockland plant.



**Red Pentas** – *Pentas lanceolata*. All the butterflies love red pentas, especially Giant Swallowtails, it's a nectar plant.



**Red Bay tree** – *Persea borbonica*. Host plant for Palamedes Swallowtail, Spice Bush Swallowtail and Tiger Swallowtail. South Florida native.



Coral Gables Branch Library

# Butterfly Garden

COMMUNITY PROJECT

# Garden's Creation

In 2001, the Coral Gables Branch Library "Butterfly Garden" was completed and dedicated. The Garden provides citizen interest for those who visit the Library as well as implementing an educational experience for the Coral Gables, Miami-Dade Public Library System and our community.

Linda Lawrence, serving as Chairperson of the "Butterfly Garden" Committee of the Coral Gables Garden Club, was responsible for the exceptional leadership in instituting this club project for the community and wrote and compiled the *Butterfly Garden* brochure. The Garden Club purchased butterfly plants for the garden and private individual donors belonging to the Coral Gables Garden Club donated commemorative benches. Dan Keys, Coral Gables Public Service Director, spearheaded the project. He designed and installed a beautiful, visitor friendly, outdoor botanical garden to attract butterflies.

In addition, the City of Coral Gables 2001 Library Advisory Board participated as advocates for this outstanding community project. The board included Chairperson Carolyn Junkin and members Kathy Gaubatz, Linda Lawrence, Elise Wood, Susan Elwood and Coral Gables Commissioner Dorothy Thomson, City Commission Library Liaison.

We invite you to meander down the Garden's path of sunshine, warmth and color and enjoy the beautiful plants and butterflies while using the *Butterfly Garden* brochure as a guide.

*"Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may light upon you."*

~Nathaniel Hawthorne



# Butterflies & Their Host Plants (Larval)

**Swallowtails** - Have noticeable tails on their hind wings.



**Eastern Swallowtail**  
Latin: *Papilio polyxenes*  
Common: Black Swallowtail  
Eats: Parsley, Dill, Fennel  
Description: Small dark species, yellow spots on wing borders.



**Swallowtail Polydamas**  
Latin: *Battus philenor*  
Eats: Dutchman's Pipe vine  
Latin: *Aristolochia*  
Description: Large blackish butterfly with greenish yellow bands on wings.



**Spice Bush Swallowtail**  
Latin: *Papilio troilus*  
Eats: Red Bay  
Latin: *Persea borbonea*  
Description: Large, black with pale greenish yellow spots.



**Giant Swallowtail**  
Latin: *Heraclides crespontes*  
Eats: Citrus - Wild Lime is the native  
Latin: *Zanthoxylum fagara*  
Description: Dade & Keys native, large black and yellow butterfly.



**Palamedes Swallowtail**  
Latin: *Papilio palamedes*  
Eats: Red Bay, Dutchman's pipe  
Latin: *Persea borbonea*, *Aristolochia*  
Description: Dark brown butterfly with yellow band wings.



**Tiger Swallowtail**  
Latin: *Pterourus glaucus glaucus*  
Eats: Red Bay  
Latin: *Persea borbonea*  
Description: Very large yellow butterfly with black borders and stripes.

**Sulphurs and Whites**

Sulphurs and Whites are easily recognized by their yellow and white colors. Both usually have black markings. Sulphurs are usually associated with plants in the legume family (beans and peas). Whites are often seen around types of mustards.



**Cloudless Sulphur**  
Latin: *Phoebis sennae*  
Eats: Privet cassia, Bahama cassia  
Description: Large, bright yellow.



**Orange Barred Sulphur**  
Latin: *Phoebis philea*  
Eats: Bahama cassia  
Latin: *Cassia fistula*  
Description: Yellow with orange bands. Found all year round in South Florida.



**Great Southern White**  
Latin: *Ascia monuste phileta*  
Eats: Herbs in mustard, nasturtium and saltwort families, Brassica, Argula, Sea Rocket (*Calcile lancolata*), Pepper grass.  
Latin: *Brassicaceae*, *capparidaceae*  
Description: Adults are found all year round in South Florida.



**Large Orange Sulphur**  
Latin: *Phoebis agarithe maxima*  
Eats: Wild tamarind, Cats claw  
Latin: *Lysiloma latisliquum*, *Pithecellobium unguiscati*  
Description: Orange with reddish brown markings on underside of wings. Found in tropical and coastal hammocks of South Florida.



**Sleepy Orange Sulphur**  
Latin: *Eurema nicippe*  
Eats: Bahama cassia  
Latin: *Cassia chapmanii*, *Cassia bahamensis*  
Description: Orange butterfly with black borders.

**Monarch and Queen Butterflies**

These are called milkweed butterflies because the larva feed on milkweed. Milkweeds produce a toxic sap and the caterpillars and adults absorb these toxins which protects them from being eaten by predators.



**Queen**  
Latin: *Danaus gilippus*  
Eats: Butterfly weed - Scarlet, Striped, Tropical  
Latin: *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Asclepias curassavica*  
Description: Is Florida's resident milkweed butterfly. It is chestnut

orange with a broad, dark margin around wings and a scattering of small white spots.



**Monarch**  
Latin: *Danaus plexippus*  
Eats: Butterfly weed - Scarlet, Striped, Tropical  
Latin: *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Asclepias curassavica*, *Asclepias perennis*  
Description: Is boldly marked black and orange. It is

seen statewide usually from late fall until early spring.

**H Hairstreak Butterflies**

The South Florida native butterfly.



**Atala**

Latin: *Eumaeus atala*  
Eats: Coontie  
Latin: *Zamia pumila*  
Description: Beautiful iridescent blue with dark wing edges and bright red/orange abdomen. Rare, was thought to be extinct, but coming back because of efforts of butterfly gardens.

**Brushfooted Butterflies**

One of the largest butterfly families. Called Brushfoot because front legs of both sexes are so small it looks like they have 4 instead of the usual 6 legs. Twenty-three species are known to breed in Florida. Most are medium sized, but colors and wing shapes vary. Although the tiny front legs are no use in supporting the butterfly, they contain sensors which help the butterfly identify food plants for its larva.



**Julia**  
Latin: *dryas iula*  
Eats: Corky stem passion vine  
Latin: *Passiflora suberosa*  
Description: Lays eggs on plants in sunny location. Orange brown with faint brown markings. Found at edge of hammocks

and in shrubby disturbed areas in Southern Florida. South Florida native butterfly.



**Ruddy Daggerwing**  
Latin: *Marpesia petreus*  
Eats: Strangler fig, Shortleaf fig  
Latin: *Ficus aureum*  
Description: Rich orange with thin brown lines, scalloped wing margins and long thin tails. Found at woodland edges.

South Florida native, tropical hammock habitat.



**Gulf Fritillary**  
Latin: *Agraulis vanillae*  
Eats: Corky stem passion vine  
Latin: *Passiflora suberosa*  
Description: Lays eggs on plants in sunny location. One of the most common butterflies in urban Florida. Bright orange with black and silver spots. Adults live all year round in South Florida.



**Zebra Longwing**  
Latin: *Heliconius charitonius tuckeri*  
Eats: Corky stem passion vine  
Latin: *Passiflora suberosa*  
Description: Black with yellow stripes. Occurs all year round in South Florida. In late afternoon, seeks out

a perch on which to spend the night. Frequently many butterflies will cluster on the same perch night after night for many weeks. Official State Butterfly of Florida.