

# Butterfly Attracting Plants of South Florida

## *Miami Blue* Chapter

North American Butterfly Association

The following is a preliminary\* compilation of plants that serve as either a larval host or nectar source for South Florida's butterflies.

Larval host, **In Bold**  
Nectar source, *In Italics*

### SWALLOWTAILS

Pipevine Swallowtail    **Pipevines and knotweeds**, nectar from a variety of flowers including thistle and lantana  
Polydamas Swallowtail    **Pipevines**, nectar from a variety of flowers including lantana  
Zebra Swallowtail    **Paw-paws**, moisture from sand and nectar from various flowers  
Black Swallowtail    **Carrots, parsley, fennel, Queen Anne's lace, dill and celery**, nectar from a variety of flowers including milkweed and thistle  
Spicebush Swallowtail    **Spicebush, red bay and sweet bay**, nectar from a variety of flowers including thistle, milkweed and lantana  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail    **Willow, sweet bay and ash**, nectar from a variety of flowers  
Giant Swallowtail    **Wild lime, yellowwood, Hercules club, citrus, Biscayne prickly ash and torchwood**, nectar from lantana, Bougainvillea, goldenrod and milkweed  
Schaus' Swallowtail    **Wild lime and torchwood**, nectar from a variety of flowers including wild coffee and guava  
Bahamian Swallowtail    **Citrus, wild lime, and torchwood**, unknown  
Palamedes Swallowtail    **Plants of the laurel family and red bay**, nectar from a variety of flowers including thistle

### WHITES, YELLOWS and SULPHURS

Great Southern White    **Saltwort and peppergrass**, nectar from a variety of flowers including saltwort, lantana and other verbena family members  
Florida White    **Milkbark, Guiana plum and limber caper**, nectar from a variety of flowers including lantana  
Checkered White    **Plants in the mustard family**, nectar from the composite and mustard families

Cabbage White    **Many plants in the mustard family,** nectar from many plants including the mustard and caper families

Orange Sulphur    **Plants in the pea family including alfalfa, white clover and white sweet clover,** nectar from many flowers including milkweed  
goldenrod and aster

Southern Dogface    **Small-leaved plants in the pea family including alfalfa and leadplant; clovers and indigo,** nectar from flowers including alfalfa,  
coreopsis, houstonia and verbena

Dainty Sulphur    **Spanish needles,** nectar from flowers from flowering plants  
Including aster, wild marigold and others

Little Yellow    **Partridge pea and wild sensitive plant,** nectar from flowers in  
the aster family including goldenrod

Mimosa Yellow    **Sensitive plant, in the pea family; wild tamarind,** nectar  
from various flowers

Dina Yellow    **Mexican alvaradoa and bitterbush,** nectar from various flowers  
including lantana

Sleepy Orange    **Senna species,** nectar from flowers including Spanish needles

Barred Yellow    **Many plants in the pea family,** nectar from a great variety of  
flowers including Spanish needles and joint vetches

Cloudless Sulphur    **Bahama senna and privet senna,** nectar from many flowers including cordia, bougainvillea, hibiscus, lantana and morning glory

Orange-barred Sulphur    **Bahama senna, and privet senna,** nectar from many  
flowers

Large Orange Sulphur    **Blackbead, cat's claw, and wild tamarind,** nectar  
from flowers including lantana, Spanish needles, bougainvillea, and hibiscus

Statira Sulphur    **In Florida, Dalbergia and Calliandra both in the pea family,**  
nectar from red-flowering plants including firebush

Lyside Sulphur    **Lignumvitae,** nectar from black mangrove and Spanish needles

Yellow Angled-Sulphur    **Senna species,** nectar from red and purple flowers  
including hibiscus and bougainvillea

Boisduval's Yellow    **Senna species,** nectar from a variety of flowers

#### **HAIRSTREAKS**

Great Purple Hairstreak    **Mistletoe,** nectar from flowers including goldenrod,  
Hercules club and Spanish needles

Atala    **Coontie as well as other members of the cycad family,** nectar from  
flowers including lantana, periwinkle, Spanish needles and wild coffee

White M Hairstreak    **Live oak and other oak species,** nectar from a variety of  
flowers including sumac, poinsettia, milkweed, lantana and goldenrod

Silver-banded Hairstreak    **Young seeds of balloon vine, nectar from flowers**  
    of balloon vine  
 Amethyst Hairstreak    **Albizia lebbbeck, nectar from a variety of flowers**  
    including ape's earring, Brazilian pepper, Guarmachil and Spanish needles  
 Banded Hairstreak    **Many species of oak, nectar from many flowers including**  
    milkweed (preferred)  
 Southern Hairstreak    **Many species of oak, nectar from a variety of flowers**  
 Red-banded Hairstreak    **Dead leaves from various trees and shrubs, nectar from a variety of flowers including tickseed sunflower and milkweed**  
 Fulvous Hairstreak    **Brazilian pepper, nectar from flowers of Brazilian pepper,**  
    Spanish needles and sea grape  
 Gray Hairstreak    **Flowers and fruit from an almost endless variety of**  
    **Plants; most often lead tree, nectar from many flowers including milkweed,**  
    mint and goldenrod  
 Martial Scrub-Hairstreak    **Florida trema and bay cedar, nectar from flowers**  
    Including bay cedar, lantana, Brazilian pepper and Spanish needles  
 Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak    **Pineland croton, nectar from flowers of pineland**  
    croton and Spanish needles  
 Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak    **Plants in the mallow family; also bay cedar,**  
    nectar from many small-flowered plants

#### **BLUES**

Eastern Pygmy-Blue    **Annual glassworts and saltwort in the amaranth family, nectar from flowers of palmetto palm and saltwort**  
 Cassius Blue    **Plumbago, rattlebox, hairy milk pea and lima beans, nectar**  
    from flowers of Spanish needles and creeping charlie  
 Ceraunus Blue    **A variety of legumes including partridge pea and wild**  
    tamarind, flower nectar  
 Miami Blue    **Balloon vine and nickerbean, flower nectar including Spanish**  
    needles  
 Nickerbean Blue    **Pineland acacia, sweet acacia and caesalpinia, flower**  
    nectar including that of pineland croton, Spanish needles and pineland acacia

#### **METALMARKS**

Little Metalmark    **Yellow thistle, short flowered composites**

#### **BRUSH FOOTED BUTTERFLIES**

American Snout    **Hackberry, nectar from flowers including goldenrod and**  
    asters  
 Gulf Fritillary    **Various passionflower vines, nectar from flowers including**  
    Spanish needles, cordias and composites

Julia **Various passionflower vines**, nectar from flowers including  
 lantana and Spanish needles  
 Zebra **Various passionflower vines**, nectar and pollen from flowers  
 including Spanish needles and lantana  
 Variegated Fritillary **A variety of plants including passionflower,**  
**violets, purslane, stonecrop and moonseed**, nectar from flowers of  
 many plants including common milkweed, dogbane, and tickseed sunflower  
 Phaon Crescent **Fogfruit, creeping Charlie and mat grass in the**  
**verbena family**, nectar from flowers of creeping Charlie and Spanish  
 needles  
 Pearl Crescent **Several species of aster**, nectar from a great  
 variety of flowering plants including swamp milkweed, Spanish needles  
 and asters  
 Cuban Crescent **Shrimp plant and crimson dicliptera**. nectar from  
 flowers mostly Spanish needles  
 Red Admiral **Many plants of the nettle family**, red admirals prefer  
 sap flows on trees, fermenting fruit and bird droppings  
 American Lady **Plants in the sunflower family**, nectar from flowers  
 including aster, goldenrod and common milkweed  
 Painted Lady **More than 100 host plants have been noted; favorites**  
**include thistle, mallow and various legumes**, prefers nectar from  
 composites 3-6 feet high, especially thistle; also aster and  
 blazing star  
 Hackberry Emperor **Various hackberries and sugarberry**, sap, rotting  
 fruit, dung and carrion  
 Tawny Emperor **Various hackberries and sugarberry**, sap, rotting  
 fruit, dung and carrion  
 White Peacock **Smooth water-hyssop and creeping Charlie**, Spanish  
 needles  
 Viceroy **Plants in the willow family**, early in the season when few  
 flowers are available Viceroy's feed on aphid honeydew, carrion, dung and  
 decaying fungi. later generations feed more often at flowers  
 including aster, goldenrod and Spanish needles  
 Common Buckeye **Plants from the snapdragon, verberna, plantain and**  
**acanthus families**, nectar from flowers including aster and  
 tickseed sunflower  
 Mangrove Buckeye **Black mangrove**, flower nectar  
 Tropical Buckeye **Stemodia, creeping charlie, ruella and**  
**porterweed**, flower nectar  
 Malachite **Green shrimp plant**, rotting fruit, bird droppings and  
 nectar from flowers  
 Florida Purplewing **Crabwood**, decaying fruit and nectar from cordia  
 and lantana  
 Dingy Purplewing **Gumbo-limbo**, rotting fruit, dung and sap; seldom  
 flower nectar  
 Florida Leafwing **Pineland croton**, rotting fruit and dung  
 Ruddy Daggerwing **Short-leaf fig and strangler fig**, nectars at  
 flowers of

*giant milkweed*

#### **SATYRS**

Carolina Satyr     **Several grasses including centipede and St. Augustine,**

*sap and rotting fruit*

Georgia Satyr     **Sedges and grasses, rotting fruit**

#### **MILKWEED BUTTERFLIES**

Monarch     **Milkweeds,** *nectar from all milkweed flowers as well as thistle*

Queen     **Milkweeds,** *flower nectar*

Soldier     **Milkweeds,** *nectar from flowers including milkweeds and Spanish needles*

#### **SKIPPERS**

Mangrove Skipper     **Red mangrove,** *nectar from flowers including mangrove,*

*Spanish needles, citrus and bougainvillea*

Hammock Skipper     **Jamaica dogwood and pongam,** *flower nectar*

Zestos Skipper     **Galactia, in the pea family,** *nectar from flowers including*

*Spanish needles, lantana and bougainvillea*

Silver-spotted Skipper     **Woody legumes,** *the Silver-spotted Skipper almost*

*never visits yellow flowers but favors blue, red, purple and pink*

Long-tailed Skipper     **Various legumes including various beans, hog peanuts, beggar ticks, blue pea and wisteria,** *nectar from flowers including bougainvillea, lantana and Spanish needles*

Dorantes Longtail     **Various legumes including wild and cultivated beans and beggar ticks,** *nectar from flowers including Spanish needles, lantana and bougainvillea*

Northern Cloudywing     **Various plants in the pea family including beggar**

**ticks and clovers,** *nectar from blue, purple, pink or white flowers*

Juvenal's Duskywing     **Oaks,** *nectar from flowers including dandelion and*

*blueberry*

Horace's Duskywing     **Various oaks,** *nectar from flowers, up to 4.5 feet tall*

*including dogbane, goldenrod and peppermint*

Florida Duskywing     **Locust-berry and Barbados cherry,** *nectar from flowers*

*of low plants and shrubs including Spanish needles, pineland croton and*

*lantana*

Sleepy Duskywing     **Various oaks,** *nectar from heaths including wild azalea and*

*blueberry*

Zarucco Duskywing     **Herbaceous legumes including black locust, hairy bush clover and Colorado River hemp,** *nectar from flowers including*

*Spanish needles*

Tropical Checkered-Skipper     **Several plants in the mallow family including**

**broomweed, mallow, hollyhock and velvet-leaf,** *nectar from flowers of*

*Sidas and Spanish needles*

Hayhurst's Scallopwing     **Bloodleaf and occasionally chaff flowers,**

nectar from flowers including marigold, knotweed, spearmint,  
cucumber  
and clovers  
Swarthy Skipper **Bluestem grasses**, nectar from low-growing flowers  
including selfheal, red clover and peppermint  
Neamathla Skipper **Bluestem grasses**, flower nectar  
Three-spotted Skipper **Guinea grass**, flower nectar  
Euphala Skipper **Various grasses including Johnson grass, Bermuda  
and  
Sugarcane**, nectar from flowers including alfalfa, croton, and  
creeping charlie  
Southern Skipperling **Bermuda grass**, nectar from flowers such as  
sneezeweed  
Least Skipper **Various grasses including marsh millet and  
cultivated rice**,  
nectar from low growing flowering plants including wood sorrel,  
swamp  
verbena, pickerelweed, Spanish needles lantana and white clover  
Fiery Skipper **Various grasses including Bermuda, crabgrass and St.  
Augustine**, nectar from flowers including sweet pepperbush, swamp  
milkweed, aster and thistle  
Whirlabout **Grasses including Bermuda and St. Augustine**, nectar from  
Spanish needles and lantana  
Sachem **Grasses including Bermuda, crabgrass and St. Augustine**,  
nectar  
from many flowers including milkweeds, button bush and thistles  
Dotted Skipper **Switchgrass**, nectar from flower of prickly pear  
cactus,  
alfalfa, and thistle  
Tawny-edged Skipper **Panic grasses, crabgrass and blue grass**,  
nectar  
from flowers including alfalfa, dogbane and thistle  
Baracoa Skipper **Grasses**, flower nectar  
Southern Broken-Dash **Paspalum and St. Augustine grass**, nectar from  
flowers including pickerelweed and sweet pepper bush  
Dun Skipper **Various sedges**, nectar from white pink or purple  
flowers  
Delaware Skipper **Various grasses**, nectar from pink and white  
flowers  
including milkweeds, marsh fleabane, thistles and pickerelweed  
Arogos Skipper **Big bluestem and other native grasses**, nectar from  
flowers including ox-eye daisy, coreopsis and dogbane  
Byssus Skipper **Eastern gama grass**, nectar from flowers including  
pickerelweed  
Meske's Skipper **Little blue stem and arrowfeather threeawn**, nectar  
from blazing star, pickerelweed and others  
Dusted Skipper **Little bluestem and big bluestem**, nectar from  
flowers  
including wild strawberry, blackberry and wild hyacinth  
Twin-spot Skipper **Grasses**, nectar from flowers including thistle  
Clouded Skipper **Various grasses including St. Augustine and wooly  
beard grass**, nectar from pink purple and white flowers including  
Spanish needles, buttonbush and lantana  
Aaron's Skipper **Possibly smooth cordgrass**, nectar from flowers  
including  
pickerelweed and marsh fleabane  
Palatka Skipper **Sawgrass**, nectar from pickerelweed and other  
plants  
Palmetto Skipper **Saw palmetto**, nectar from pickerelweed  
Berry's Skipper **Sedges**, nectar from pickerelweed  
Dusky Roadside-Skipper **Grasses**, flower nectar

Ocola Skipper     **Rice, sugarcane and trompelilla**, nectar from flowers including  
    *lantana, Spanish needles, buttonbush and pickerelweed*  
 Salt Marsh Skipper     **Seashore saltgrass**, nectar from flowers including *privet*  
    *marsh fleabane, thistle and verbena*  
 Obscure Skipper     **Various grasses and sugarcane**, nectar from *rattlebox*  
 Cofaqui Giant-Skipper     **Bear grass, Spanish bayonet and small yucca**, adults  
    *do not feed, but males sip moisture from mud*  
 Yucca Giant-Skipper     **Bear grass, Spanish bayonet and small yucca**, adults  
    *do not feed, but males sip moisture from mud*  
 Monk Skipper     **Various palms including saw palmetto, date and coconut**,  
    *nectar from hibiscus and other large flowers*  
 Brazilian Skipper     **Cannas and alligator flag**, nectar from large *white and pale*  
    *yellow flowers*

Compiled by  
 David L. Lysinger  
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 With additional notes by  
 Roger L. Hammer  
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\*Preliminary lists are works in progress. If you have additions or corrections, please notify the compiler at [MiamiBlue@bellsouth.net](mailto:MiamiBlue@bellsouth.net) or write to  
 Miami Blue Chapter P.O. Box 141667 Coral Gables, FL 33114

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