



NATIVE PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

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BASICS OF BUTTERFLY AND MOTH GARDENING

- Adult butterflies and moths are attracted to two types of plants: 1) nectar plants with flowers that adults can land on and drink nectar from, and 2) host plants to lay their eggs on and provide food for developing caterpillars.
- Nectar plants have flowers with surfaces that butterflies can stand on while they feed. They prefer flat-topped clusters of small individual flowers, such as daisies, yarrows, buckwheats and coyote mints. Nectar plants for moths often flower at night and may have long nectar tubes to accommodate the moths' specialized mouth parts.
- Host plants have leaves or petals that caterpillars will eat. Many caterpillars are host specific, meaning they require particular plant species for food. Monarch caterpillars, for example, feed exclusively on milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.).
- Choose plants that are likely to attract butterflies and moths found in your region. This list provides resources that describe which of these insects are common in your area and includes plants likely to attract butterflies and moths that frequent the L.A. basin and local foothills.
- You will have caterpillars feeding on some of your plants. Accept some munching on the leaves and, chances are, you'll start seeing more butterflies and moths soon.
- Allow some leaf litter to accumulate in your garden. It provides habitat for numerous insects, including ground-pupating butterflies and moths, which in turn attract foraging birds and lizards.
- Avoid using insecticides, especially Bt – most insecticides kill indiscriminately, targeting both pests and beneficials. Bt targets caterpillars.
- A butterfly and moth garden is an ecosystem. By using native plants, thus reducing or eliminating the use of water, pesticides and chemical fertilizers, you will be supporting not only butterflies and moths, but a host of insect species, birds, reptiles and other wildlife.

RESOURCES

Books

Bringing Nature Home, Douglas Tallamy, Timber Press, Revised Edition 2009

Caterpillars in the Field and Garden, Thomas J. Allen, James P. Brock and Jeffrey Glassberg, Oxford University Press, 2005

Butterflies of North America, James P. Brock and Kenn Kauffman, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006

An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies, Fred Heath and Herbert Clark, Mountain Press 2004

Insects of the Los Angeles Basin, Charles L. Hogue, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 1993

Websites

Butterflies and Moths of North America, butterfliesandmoths.org

Monarch Watch, monarchwatch.org

North American Butterfly Association, naba.org

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, xerces.org

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This plant:	is food for:	and nectar for:
<i>Acmispon glaber</i> , deerweed	many species	blues
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> and cvs., yarrow		many species
<i>Adenostoma</i> spp., chamise, redshanks	grey hairstreak	
<i>Aesculus californica</i> , CA buckeye	echo blue, spring azure	
<i>Agave</i> spp., agave	giant skipper	
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> , white alder	western tiger swallowtail	
<i>Amorpha californica</i> , false indigo	grey hairstreak, CA dogface	
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp. and cvs., manzanita	ceanothus silk moth	monarch
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i> , madrone	western brown elfin, Doudoroff's hairstreak, ceanothus silk moth	
<i>Asclepias</i> spp., milkweed	monarch, striated queen, Acmon blue	monarch, striated queen, West Coast lady
Asteraceae, daisy family, composites		many species
<i>Astragalus</i> spp., locoweed	many species	
<i>Baileya multiradiata</i> , desert marigold		many species
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> and cvs., coyote brush		monarch, swallowtails., buckeye, painted lady, Acmon blue
<i>Calliandra californica</i> , red fairy duster	hairstreaks and blues	hairstreaks and blues
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp. and cvs., CA Lilac	hairstreaks, pale swallowtail, brown elfin, spring azure, echo blue, duskywings, CA tortoiseshell, ceanothus silk moth	painted lady, many species
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> , mountain mahogany	hairstreaks, ceanothus silk moth	
<i>Cirsium occidentale</i> , cobweb thistle	painted lady	many species
<i>Datura wrightii</i> , sacred datura, jimson weed (toxic to mammals)		moth species
<i>Encelia californica</i> , CA bush sunflower	fatal metalmark, dusky metalmark	many species
<i>Erigeron</i> spp. and cvs., seaside daisy	CA dogface	many species
<i>Epilobium</i> spp. and cvs., CA fuchsia	white-lined sphinx moth	giant swallowtail, CA dogface, white-lined sphinx moth
<i>Ericameria</i> spp., common names vary	northern checkerspot	buckeye, painted lady, skippers
<i>Eriodictyon</i> spp., yerba santa		many species
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> , CA buckwheat	hairstreaks, blues, Mormon metalmark, many species	Acmon blue, mournful duskywing, American lady, painted lady, many species
<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i> , coast buckwheat	El Segundo blue (endangered)	
<i>Frangula californica</i> , coffeeberry	pale swallowtail, ceanothus silk moth, grey hairstreak	
<i>Helianthus annuus</i> , common sunflower	painted lady, bordered patch	many species
<i>Hesperoyucca whipplei</i> , chaparral yucca	yucca moth	yucca moth
<i>Lupinus</i> spp., lupine (toxic to mammals)	Arrowhead blue, painted lady	
<i>Malosma laurina</i> , laurel sumac	ceanothus silk moth	
<i>Mirabilis</i> spp., four o'clock		moth species
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> , sticky monkeyflower	buckeye, variable checkerspot	many species
<i>Monardella</i> spp., coyote mint		many species
<i>Oenothera</i> spp., evening primrose	white-lined sphinx moth	moth species
<i>Platanus racemosa</i> , western sycamore	western tiger swallowtail	
Poaceae, grass family	skippers	
<i>Quercus</i> spp., oak	CA sister, mournful duskywing, hairstreaks	
<i>Salix</i> spp., willow	western tiger swallowtail, mourning cloak, Lorquin's admiral, ceanothus silk moth	
<i>Salvia</i> spp. and cvs., sage		many species
<i>Solidago</i> spp., goldenrod		many species
<i>Verbena lilacina</i> and cvs., lilac verbena	grey hairstreak	painted lady, mournful duskywing, many species
<i>Urtica dioica</i> , stinging nettle	red admiral, west coast lady	