

## Plants that Provide Nectar for Butterflies:

Flowering plants provide nectar for butterflies and in return the butterflies transfer pollen from flower to flower. Butterflies are attracted to bright and colourful flowers and some prefer certain colours over others – eg. swallowtails prefer red.

They prefer flowers that provide some sort of platform for their dainty feet, such as a flat rim of petals around a single flower or a flower spike or flowerhead with many single flowers crowded close together. Butterflies have long, delicate, coiled tubes for sucking water, nectar and other plant juices. This enables them to probe deep inside tubular flowers or delve down amongst the spiky stamens of bottlebrushes and other similar flowers.

The following are some of the native plants that provide nectar for our butterfly visitors.

### TREES:

<i>Aurantiarca rhombifolia</i>	Hollywood
<i>Bachousia citriodora</i>	Lemon Myrtle
<i>Banksia aemula &amp; integrifolia</i>	Coastal Banksias
<i>Commersonia bartramia</i>	Brown Kurrajong
<i>Corymbia ptychocarpa</i>	Swamp Bloodwood
<i>Eucalyptus curtisii</i>	Plunkett Mallee
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani
<i>Melaleuca</i> spp.	Paperbarks
<i>Melicope elleryana &amp; rubra</i>	Evodias
<i>Pavetta australiensis</i>	Pavetta
<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>	Water Gum

### SHRUBS:

<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>	Lolly Bush
<i>Graptophyllum spinigerum</i>	Samford Holly
<i>Leptospermum</i> spp.	Tea Trees
<i>Melaleuca</i> spp.	Bottlebrushes, Paperbarks & Honey Myrtles
<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	Lime Bush
<i>Pimelea</i> spp.	Rice Flowers
<i>Pomaderris lanigera</i>	Woolly Pomaderris
<i>Pultenaea</i> spp.	Bush Peas
<i>Sannantha</i> spp.	Heath Myrtles

### SMALL PLANTS:

<i>Artanema fimbriatum</i>	Koala Bells
<i>Mazus pumilio</i>	Swamp Mazus
<i>Pratia pedunculata</i>	Matted Pratia
<i>Scaevola</i> spp.	Fan Flowers
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	Arrowhead Violet
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i>	Golden Everlasting

### VINES:

<i>Morinda jasminoides</i>	Morinda
<i>Parsonsia</i> spp.	Monkey Rope

## Attracting Butterflies to your Garden

Butterflies are entrancing creatures that float and flit through the garden, sipping nectar from the flowers. Everyone loves butterflies. So, how do we attract these delightful creatures to be a permanent feature in our gardens?

Butterflies are attracted to gardens for two reasons – the first is when the adult butterflies are seeking nectar from flowers for their own sustenance - the second is when the females are ready to lay their eggs on the right food plants for their young caterpillars.

Many people plant nectar-producing plants that will feed the adult butterflies, but bear in mind, every butterfly was once a caterpillar, and each type of butterfly has its own particular plant or group of plants on which its caterpillars will need to feed.

Most butterflies are quite specific about which plants they will lay their eggs on. This is because most plants have chemical defences and the digestive systems of the different caterpillars have evolved to neutralise the chemicals in the various plants on which they feed.

Happily, research by dedicated people has revealed the correct host plants for many of our butterfly larvae. By growing these plants you can attract the adult butterflies to your garden. There they will lay their eggs, which will become caterpillars, then chrysalises, and finally a new generation of adult butterflies.

To encourage butterflies to live and breed in your garden, all you have to do is grow plants with flowers that produce nectar for the adults or food plants for the caterpillars. Plant not only trees, shrubs and groundcovers, but also some of the grasses and tufting plants.

Remember, every butterfly was once a caterpillar, and you must be prepared to accept some chewed leaves. However, birds and predatory insects will usually keep their numbers in check.

# How to attract Butterflies to your Garden



## Native Plants Queensland

(Society for Growing Australian Plants Qld. Region Inc.)

Honorary Secretary

P.O. Box 586

FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006

Email: [secretary@npq.org.au](mailto:secretary@npq.org.au)

Phone: 07 3285 3322

Internet web site: [www.npq.org.au](http://www.npq.org.au)

ABN 92 312 012 800

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## Native Food Plants for Caterpillars:

Butterflies cannot breed in an area unless the specific host plants for their caterpillars are growing there. If these plants are known and planted in a garden, it will only be a matter of time before the adult butterflies find them and begin laying eggs. The butterflies should then stay in the area.

The following is a list of the host plants for many of our butterflies.

### TREES:

- Acacia spp.** (Wattles) – Blue Jewel, Double-spotted Lineblue, Common Imperial Blue, Fiery Jewel.  
**Acmena spp.** (Lilly Pillys) – Common Red-eye, Eastern Flat.  
**Acronychia spp.** – Orchard Swallowtail.  
**Alectryon spp.** – Hairy Lineblue, Glistening Blue, White Lineblue, Small Purple Lineblue.  
**Banksia integrifolia** (Coast Banksia) – Fiery Jewel.  
**Brachychiton acerifolius** (Flame Tree) – Common Aeroplane, Pencilled Blue, Tailed Emperor, Eastern Flat.  
**Cassia spp.** (Native Cassias) – Common Migrant, Lemon Migrant, Tailed Emperor.  
**Cryptocarya spp.** (Native Laurels). Blue Triangle, Macleay's Swallowtail, Orchard Swallowtail.  
**Cupaniopsis spp.** (Tuckeroos) Hairy Lineblue, Pencilled Blue, Glistening Blue, Fiery Jewel.  
**Drypetes deplanchei** (Yellow Tulip) – Common Albatross.  
**Elaeocarpus spp.** (Blue Quandong, Hard Quandong) – Fiery Jewel, Eastern Flat.  
**Ficus spp.** (Native Figs) – Common Crow, Common Moonbeam.  
**Flindersia spp.** (Crow's Ash, Bennett's Ash, Leopard Ash, Bumpy Ash) – Orchard Swallowtail.  
**Guilfoylia monostylis** (Native Plum) – Tailed Emperor.  
**Harpullia pendula** (Tulipwood) – Speckled Lineblue.  
**Macadamia spp.** (Macadamia Nuts) – Pencilled Blue, Double-spotted Lineblue, Hairy Lineblue.  
**Melicope spp.** (Pink Doughwood, Little Evodia, White Doughwood) – Orchard Swallowtail.  
**Micromelum minutum** (Lime Berry) – Orchard Swallowtail.  
**Neolitsea spp.** (Green Bollygum, White Bollygum) – Blue Triangle, Eastern Flat.  
**Parachidendron pruinosum** (Snowwood) – Tailed Emperor.  
**Petalostigma pubescens** (Quinine Berry) – Copper Jewel.  
**Pipturus argenteus** (Native Mulberry) – White Nymph, Speckled Line Blue.  
**Rapanea variabilis** (Muttonwood) – White Lineblue.  
**Scolopia braunii** (Flintwood) – Australian Rustic.  
**Tristaniopsis laurina** (Water Gum) – Blue Triangle, Common Red-eye, Rare Red-eye.

### SHRUBS:

- Acacia spp.** (Wattles) – Common Imperial Blue, Small Purple Lineblue, Glistening Blue, Tailed Emperor, Double-spotted Lineblue.  
**Aotus ericoides, lanigera** (Native Broom) – Fringed Blue.  
**Bossiaea spp.** (Pea Bushes) – Fringed Blue.  
**Brachyloma daphnoides** (Heath Daphne) – Fiery Jewel.  
**Breynia oblongifolia** (Coffee Bush) – Common Grass Yellow.  
**Bursaria spinosa** (Blackthorn) – Bright Copper, Dull Copper.  
**Callicoma serratifolia** (White Alder) – Eastern Flat.  
**Carissa ovata** (Current Bush) – Common Crow.  
**Citrus spp.** (Native Limes) – Orchard Swallowtail, Chequered Swallowtail, Dainty Swallowtail.  
**Clerodendrum floribundum** (Lolly Bush) – Blue Triangle, Fiery Jewel.  
**Daviesia spp.** (Native Gorse) – Fringed Blue.  
**Dillwynia spp.** (Parrot Peas) – Fringed Blue.  
**Dodonaea triquetra** (Hop Bush) – Fiery Jewel.  
**Glycosmis trifoliata** (Pink Lime) – Orchard Swallowtail.  
**Hypoestes floribunda** – Blue Argus.  
**Indigofera australis** (Native Indigo) – Pea Blue, Common Grass Yellow, Common Grass Blue.  
**Jacksonia scoparia** (Dogwood) – Copper Pencilled Blue, Fiery Jewel  
**Murraya ovatifoliolata** (Native Murraya) – Orchard Swallowtail.  
**Myoporum acuminatum** (Boobialla) – Rayed Blue.  
**Ozothamnus diosmifolius** (Sago Flower) – Painted Lady.  
**Pimelea spp.** (Rice Flowers) – Rayed Blue, Yellow Spot Blue.  
**Pittosporum multiflorum** (Orange Thornbush) – Bright Copper.  
**Plumbago zeylanica** (Native Plumbago) – Zebra Blue.  
**Pomaderris spp.** – Yellow Spot Jewel.  
**Pultenaea spp.** (Bush Peas) – Fringed Blue.  
**Senna acclinis** (Native Cassia) – Common Grass Yellow, Small Grass Yellow.  
**Swainsona galegifolia** (Darling Pea) - Pea Blue, Common Grass Blue.  
**Tasmannia insipida** (Pepper Bush) – Macleay's Swallowtail.  
**Trema tomentosa** (Peach Poison Bush) – Speckled Lineblue.  
**Westringia spp.** (Native Rosemary) – Rayed Blue.  
**Wilkiea spp.** – Regent Skipper.  
**Zieria spp.** – Orchard Swallowtail.



### HERBS & GRASSES:

- Carex spp.** (Sedges) – Small Dinky Skipper.  
**Chrysocephalum apiculatum** (Yellow Buttons) – Painted Lady.  
**Cordyline spp.** (Palm Lilies) – Miskin's Swift.  
**Cullen tenax** (Emu-Foot) – Chequered Swallowtail, Common Grass Blue.  
**Cynodon dactylon** (Green Couch) – Common Brown Ringlet, Common Brown, White Grassdart, Yellow Banded Dart.  
**Dianella spp.** (Flax Lilies) – Yellow Banded Dart.  
**Gahnia spp.** (Saw Sedges) – Spotted Skipper, Sword Grass Brown, Painted Skipper, Flame Skipper.  
**Glycine spp.** (Twining Glycine Peas) – Common Grass Blue.  
**Goodenia spp.** – Meadow Argus.  
**Hybanthus stellarioides** (Spade Flower) – Glasswing.  
**Lomandra spp.** (Mat Rushes) – Common White-spot Skipper, Rare White-spot Skipper, Eliena Skipper, Dispar Skipper, Phigalioides Skipper.  
**Macrozamia spp.** (Zamias) – Miskin's Blue.  
**Oplismenus spp.** (Creeping Beard Grass) – Doubleday's Skipper.  
**Patersonia spp.** (Native Iris) – Halyzia Skipper.  
**Pseuderanthemum variabile** (Love Flower) – Blue Argus, Australian Leafwing, Common Eggfly.  
**Scaevola aemula** (Fan Flower) – Meadow Argus.  
**Themeda triandra** (Kangaroo Grass) – Evening Brown, Common Brown, Common Brown Ringlet, Yellow Banded Dart.  
**Viola betonicifolia** (Arrowhead Violet) – Australian Fritillary.  
**Xerochrysum bracteatum** (Everlasting Daisy) – Painted Lady.



### VINES:

- Aristolochia acuminata, pubera** (Native Pipe Vines) – Big Greasy.  
**Callerya megasperma** (Native Wisteria) – Pencilled Blue, Narrow Banded Awl.  
**Flagellaria indica** (Supplejack) – Pencilled Blue, Large Darter.  
**Hardenbergia violacea** (False Sarsaparilla) – Common Grass Blue.  
**Hoya australis** (Waxflower Vine) – Common Crow.  
**Kennedia rubicunda** (Dusky Coral Pea) – Pea Blue.  
**Marsdenia spp.** (Milk Vines) – Blue Tiger, Common Crow.  
**Melodorum leichhardtii** (Acid Drop Vine) – Four-barred Swordtail, Pale Green Triangle.  
**Pararistolochia laheyana, praevenosa** (Birdwing Vines) – Richmond Birdwing, Big Greasy.  
**Passiflora spp.** (Native Passionfruit) – Glasswing.