



Florida Native Plant Society – Naples Chapter

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Native Host Plant Species for Southwest Florida Butterflies (By Butterfly Species)

Introduction: Butterflies need both host plants and nectar plants. Adult butterflies lay their eggs on specific host plants (listed below). The caterpillars that hatch from the eggs eat leaves from their host plants. After caterpillars reach their final growth stage, they pupate (form a chrysalis) and metamorphose into a butterfly. Most butterflies visit plants with nectar-rich flowers for food, but some butterflies prefer sucking juices from rotting fruit. This list of native host plants can help you locate and identify butterflies in the wild, or create your own native butterfly garden.

Butterfly (<i>Scientific name</i>)	Host Plant (<i>Scientific name</i>)
Aaron's Skipper (<i>Poanes aaroni</i>)	Maidencane (<i>Panicum hemitomon</i>)
American Lady (<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>)	Spoonleaf Purple Everlasting (<i>Gamochaeta purpurea</i>) Sweet Everlasting (<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i>)
Barred Yellow (<i>Eurema daira</i>)	Cheesytoes (<i>Stylosanthes hamata</i>) Fourleaf Vetch (<i>Vicia acutifolia</i>) Shyleaf (<i>Aeschynomene americana</i>)
Black Swallowtail (<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>)	Mock Bishopweed (<i>Ptilimnium capillaceum</i>) Spotted Water Hemlock (<i>Cicuta maculata</i>) Water Cowbane (<i>Tiedemannia filiformis</i>)
Brazilian Skipper (<i>Calpodus ethlius</i>)	Alligatorflag (<i>Thalia geniculata</i>) Bandanna-of-the-Everglades (<i>Canna flaccida</i>)
Byssus Skipper (<i>Problema byssus</i>)	Fakahatcheegrass (<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>) Slender Woodoats (<i>Chasmanthium laxum</i>) Sugarcane Plumegrass (<i>Saccharum giganteum</i>)
Carolina Satyr (<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>)	Common Carpetgrass (<i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>) St. Augustinegrass (<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>) Woodsgrass (<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>)
Cassius Blue (<i>Leptotes cassius</i>)	Eastern Milkpea (<i>Galactia volubilis</i>) False Tamarind (<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>) Florida Hammock Milkpea (<i>Galactia striata</i>) Hairypod Cowpea (<i>Vigna luteola</i>)
Ceraunus Blue (<i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i>)	Carolina Indigo (<i>Indigofera caroliniana</i>) Danglepod (<i>Sesbania herbacea</i>) Florida Alicia (<i>Chapmannia floridana</i>) Partridge Pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>) Sensitive Pea (<i>Chamaecrista nictitans</i>) Tropical Puff (<i>Neptunia pubescens</i>)
Checkered White (<i>Pontia protodice</i>)	Virginia Pepperweed (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>)
Clouded Skipper (<i>Lerema accius</i>)	Beaked Panicum (<i>Panicum anceps</i>) Coast Cockspur (<i>Echinochloa walteri</i>) Coral Bristlegrass (<i>Setaria macrosperma</i>) Fakahatcheegrass (<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>) Fall Panicgrass (<i>Panicum dichotomiflorum</i>) Florida Paspalum (<i>Paspalum floridanum</i>)

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Clouded Skipper (cont'd)	Kissimmeegrass (<i>Paspalidium geminatum</i>) Maidencane (<i>Panicum hemitomon</i>) Redtop Panicum (<i>Panicum rigidulum</i>) Rough Barnyardgrass (<i>Echinochloa muricata</i>) Savannah Paspalum (<i>Phanopyrum gymnocarpon</i>) Slender Woodoats (<i>Chasmanthium laxum</i>) Southern Wild Rice (<i>Zizaniopsis miliacea</i>) St. Augustinegrass (<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>) Sugarcane Plumegrass (<i>Saccharum giganteum</i>) Tall Redtop (<i>Tridens flavus</i>) Thin Paspalum (<i>Paspalum setaceum</i>) Water Paspalum (<i>Paspalum repens</i>)
Cloudless Sulphur (<i>Phoebis sennae</i>)	Chapman's Wild Sensitive Plant (<i>Senna mexicana</i> var. <i>chapmanii</i>) Partridge Pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>) Privet Wild Sensitive Plant (<i>Senna ligustrina</i>) Sensitive Pea (<i>Chamaecrista nictitans</i>)
Common Buckeye (<i>Junonia coenia</i>)	American Bluehearts (<i>Buchnera americana</i>) Beach False Foxglove (<i>Agalinis fasciculata</i>) Oblongleaf Twinflower (<i>Dyschoriste oblongifolia</i>) Piedmont Blacksenna (<i>Seymeria pectinata</i>) Purple False Foxglove (<i>Agalinis purpurea</i>) Saltmarsh False Foxglove (<i>Agalinis maritima</i>) Virginian Plantain (<i>Plantago virginica</i>)
Cuban Crescent (<i>Anthanassa frisia</i>)	Sixangle Foldwing (<i>Dicliptera sexangularis</i>)
Dainty Sulphur (<i>Nathalis iole</i>)	Beggarticks (<i>Bidens alba</i>)
Delaware Skipper (<i>Anatrytone logan</i>)	Broomsedge Bluestem (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>) Maidencane (<i>Panicum hemitomon</i>) Redtop Panicum (<i>Panicum rigidulum</i>) Lopsided Indiangrass (<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>)
Dorantes Longtail (<i>Urbanus dorantes</i>)	Hairyrod Cowpea (<i>Vigna luteola</i>)
Eastern Pygmy-Blue (<i>Brephidium isophthalma</i>)	Perennial Glasswort (<i>Sarcocornia ambigua</i>)
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (<i>Pterourus glaucus</i>)	Sweetbay (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)
Eufala Skipper (<i>Lerodea eufala</i>)	Pinewoods Fingergrass (<i>Eustachys petraea</i>) Lopsided Indiangrass (<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>)
Fiery Skipper (<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>)	St. Augustinegrass (<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>)
Florida White (<i>Appias drusilla</i>)	Bayleaf Capertree (<i>Capparis flexuosa</i>) Guiana Plum (<i>Drypetes lateriflora</i>)
Georgia Satyr (<i>Neonympha areolata</i>)	Broomsedge Bluestem (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>) Bushy Bluestem (<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>) Elliott's Bluestem (<i>Andropogon gyrans</i>) Florida Bluestem (<i>Andropogon floridanus</i>) Hairy Bluestem (<i>Andropogon longiberbis</i>) Pinewoods Bluestem (<i>Andropogon arctatus</i>) Shortspike Bluestem (<i>Andropogon brachystachyus</i>) Splitbeard Bluestem (<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>)
Giant Swallowtail (<i>Heraclides crespontes</i>)	Hercules-club (<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>) Wild Lime (<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>)
Gray Hairstreak (<i>Strymon melinus</i>)	Coinvine (<i>Dalbergia ecastophyllum</i>) Downy Milkpea (<i>Galactia regularis</i>) Eastern Milkpea (<i>Galactia volubilis</i>)

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Gray Hairstreak (cont'd)	Hairy-pod Cowpea (<i>Vigna luteola</i>) Panicked Ticktrefoil (<i>Desmodium paniculatum</i>) Partridge Pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>) Skyblue Lupine (<i>Lupinus diffusus</i>)
Great Southern White (<i>Ascia monuste</i>)	Coastal Searocket (<i>Cakile lanceolata</i>) Pennsylvania Bittercress (<i>Cardamine pensylvanica</i>) Saltwort (<i>Batis maritima</i>) Virginia Pepperweed (<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>)
Gulf Fritillary (<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>)	Corkystem Passionflower (<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>) Pitted Stripeseed (<i>Piriqueta cistoides</i>) Purple Passionflower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)
Hackberry Emperor (<i>Asterocampa celtis</i>)	Sugarberry (<i>Celtis laevigata</i>)
Hammock Skipper (<i>Polygonus leo</i>)	Jamaican Dogwood (<i>Piscidia piscipula</i>)
Hayhurst's Scallopwing (<i>Staphylus hayhurstii</i>)	Juba's Bush (<i>Iresine diffusa</i>)
Horace's Duskywing (<i>Erynnis horatius</i>)	Chapman's Oak (<i>Quercus chapmanii</i>) Laurel Oak (<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>) Live Oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>) Myrtle Oak (<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>) Sand Live Oak (<i>Quercus geminata</i>) Scrub Oak (<i>Quercus inopina</i>) Turkey Oak (<i>Quercus laevis</i>) Water Oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>)
Julia Heliconian (<i>Dryas iulia</i>)	Corkystem Passionflower (<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>)
Juvenal's Duskywing (<i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>)	Chapman's Oak (<i>Quercus chapmanii</i>) Scrub Oak (<i>Quercus inopina</i>) Turkey Oak (<i>Quercus laevis</i>)
Large Orange Sulphur (<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>)	Catclaw Blackbead (<i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i>) False Tamarind (<i>Lysiloma latisiliquum</i>)
Least Skipper (<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>)	American Cupscale (<i>Sacciolepis striata</i>) Southern Cutgrass (<i>Leersia hexandra</i>) Southern Wild Rice (<i>Zizaniopsis miliacea</i>)
Little Metalmark (<i>Calephelis virginensis</i>)	Pineland Purple (<i>Carphephorus odoratissimus</i> var. <i>subtropicus</i>) Purple Thistle (<i>Cirsium horridulum</i>)
Little Yellow (<i>Eurema lisa</i>)	Partridge Pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>) Powderpuff (<i>Mimosa strigillosa</i>) Sensitive Pea (<i>Chamaecrista nictitans</i>)
Long-tailed Skipper (<i>Urbanus proteus</i>)	Atlantic Pigeonwings (<i>Clitoria mariana</i>) Downy Milkpea (<i>Galactia regularis</i>) Eastern Milkpea (<i>Galactia volubilis</i>) Elliott's Milkpea (<i>Galactia elliotii</i>) Florida Hammock Milkpea (<i>Galactia striata</i>) Florida Ticktrefoil (<i>Desmodium floridanum</i>) Hairy-pod Cowpea (<i>Vigna luteola</i>) Least Snoutbean (<i>Rhynchosia minima</i>) Panicked Ticktrefoil (<i>Desmodium paniculatum</i>) Spurred Butterfly Pea (<i>Centrosema virginianum</i>)
Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak (<i>Strymon istapa</i>)	Common Fanpetals (<i>Sida acuta</i>) Sleepy Morning (<i>Waltheria indica</i>)
Mangrove Buckeye (<i>Junonia evarete</i>)	Black Mangrove (<i>Avicennia germinans</i>)
Mangrove Skipper (<i>Phocides pigmalion</i>)	Red Mangrove (<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>)

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Martial Scrub-Hairstreak (<i>Strymon martialis</i>)	Bay Cedar (<i>Suriana maritima</i>)
Monarch (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Butterfly Milkweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>) Curtiss' Milkweed (<i>Asclepias curtissii</i>) Fewflower Milkweed (<i>Asclepias lanceolata</i>) Longleaf Milkweed (<i>Asclepias longifolia</i>) Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) Velvetleaf Milkweed (<i>Asclepias tomentosa</i>)
Monk Skipper (<i>Asbolis capucinus</i>)	Cabbage Palm (<i>Sabal palmetto</i>) Everglades Palm (<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i>) Florida Royal Palm (<i>Roystonea regia</i>) Florida Thatch Palm (<i>Thrinax radiata</i>) Saw Palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>) Scrub Palmetto (<i>Sabal etonia</i>)
Neamathla Skipper (<i>Nastra neamathla</i>)	Broomsedge Bluestem (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>)
Oak Hairstreak (<i>Fixsenia favonius</i>)	Sand Live Oak (<i>Quercus geminata</i>)
Obscure Skipper (<i>Panoquina panoquinoides</i>)	Coral Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus domingensis</i>) Seashore Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>)
Ocola Skipper (<i>Panoquina ocola</i>)	Southern Cutgrass (<i>Leersia hexandra</i>)
Orange-barred Sulphur (<i>Phoebis philea</i>)	Chapman's Wild Sensitive Plant (<i>Senna mexicana</i> var. <i>chapmanii</i>)
Painted Lady (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>)	Purple Thistle (<i>Cirsium horridulum</i>) Scarlet Rosemallow (<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>) Swamp Rosemallow (<i>Hibiscus grandiflorus</i>)
Palamedes Swallowtail (<i>Pterourus palamedes</i>)	Red Bay (<i>Persea borbonia</i>) Swamp Bay (<i>Persea palustris</i>)
Palatka Skipper (<i>Euphyes pilatka</i>)	Jamaica Swamp Sawgrass (<i>Cladium jamaicense</i>)
Palmetto Skipper (<i>Euphyes arpa</i>)	Saw Palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>) Scrub Palmetto (<i>Sabal etonia</i>)
Pearl Crescent (<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>)	Rice Button Aster (<i>Symphotrichum dumosum</i>)
Phaon Crescent (<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>)	Turkey Tangle Fogfruit (<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>)
Pipevine Swallowtail (<i>Battus philenor</i>)	Virginia Snakeroot (<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>)
Polydamas Swallowtail (<i>Battus polydamas</i>)	Marsh's Dutchman's-pipe (<i>Aristolochia pentandra</i>)
Queen (<i>Danaus gilippus</i>)	Curtiss' Milkweed (<i>Asclepias curtissii</i>) Fewflower Milkweed (<i>Asclepias lanceolata</i>) Longleaf Milkweed (<i>Asclepias longifolia</i>) Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) Velvetleaf Milkweed (<i>Asclepias tomentosa</i>)
Question Mark (<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>)	American Elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>) Sugarberry (<i>Celtis laevigata</i>)
Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	False Nettle (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>) Florida Pellitory (<i>Parietaria floridana</i>) Heartleaf Nettle (<i>Urtica chamaedryoides</i>)
Red-banded Hairstreak (<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>)	Laurel Oak (<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>) Live Oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>) Myrtle Oak (<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>) Sand Live Oak (<i>Quercus geminata</i>) Water Oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>) Wax Myrtle (<i>Myrica cerifera</i>)
Ruddy Daggerwing (<i>Marpesia petreus</i>)	Strangler Fig (<i>Ficus aurea</i>) Wild Banyan Tree (<i>Ficus citrifolia</i>)

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Salt Marsh Skipper (<i>Panoquina panoquin</i>)	Saltgrass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>) Saltmarsh Cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>)
Silver-spotted Skipper (<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>)	Bastard False Indigo (<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>) Groundnut (<i>Apios americana</i>)
Sleepy Duskywing (<i>Erynnis brizo</i>)	Chapman's Oak (<i>Quercus chapmanii</i>) Myrtle Oak (<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>) Scrub Oak (<i>Quercus inopina</i>) Turkey Oak (<i>Quercus laevis</i>)
Sleepy Orange (<i>Eurema nicippe</i>)	Sicklepod (<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>)
Soldier (<i>Danaus eresimus</i>)	Blodgett's Swallowwort (<i>Cynanchum blodgettii</i>) Butterfly Milkweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>) Curtiss' Milkweed (<i>Asclepias curtissii</i>) Fewflower Milkweed (<i>Asclepias lanceolata</i>) Gulf Coast Swallowwort (<i>Cynanchum angustifolium</i>) Leafless Swallowwort (<i>Cynanchum scoparium</i>) Longleaf Milkweed (<i>Asclepias longifolia</i>) Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) Velvetleaf Milkweed (<i>Asclepias tomentosa</i>) White Twinevine (<i>Sarcostemma clausum</i>)
Southern Dogface (<i>Zerene cesonia</i>)	Bastard False Indigo (<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>) Summer Farewell (<i>Dalea pinnata</i> var. <i>adenopoda</i>)
Spicebush Swallowtail (<i>Pterourus troilus</i>)	Red Bay (<i>Persea borbonia</i>) Swamp Bay (<i>Persea palustris</i>)
Statira Sulphur (<i>Aphrissa statira</i>)	Coinvine (<i>Dalbergia ecastophyllum</i>)
Swarthy Skipper (<i>Nastra lherminier</i>)	Broomsedge Bluestem (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>) Lopsided Indiangrass (<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>)
Tawny Emperor (<i>Asterocampa clyton</i>)	Sugarberry (<i>Celtis laevigata</i>)
Three-spotted Skipper (<i>Cymaenes tripunctus</i>)	Fakahatcheegrass (<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>) Southern Crabgrass (<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>) Thin Paspalum (<i>Paspalum setaceum</i>)
Tropical Checkered-Skipper (<i>Pyrgus oileus</i>)	Common Fanpetals (<i>Sida acuta</i>) Indian Hemp (<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>)
Twin-spot Skipper (<i>Oligoria maculata</i>)	Broomsedge Bluestem (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>) Lopsided Indiangrass (<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>)
Variiegated Fritillary (<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>)	Florida Yellow Flax (<i>Linum floridanum</i>) Purple Passionflower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)
Viceroy (<i>Basilarchia archippus</i>)	Carolina Willow (<i>Salix caroliniana</i>)
Whirlabout (<i>Polites vibex</i>)	Southern Crabgrass (<i>Digitaria ciliaris</i>) St. Augustinegrass (<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>)
White Checkered-Skipper (<i>Pyrgus albescens</i>)	Common Fanpetals (<i>Sida acuta</i>) Indian Hemp (<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>)
White Peacock (<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>)	Herb-of-grace (<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>) Turkey Tangle Fogfruit (<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>)
White-M Hairstreak (<i>Parrhasius m-album</i>)	Laurel Oak (<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>) Live Oak (<i>Quercus virginiana</i>) Sand Live Oak (<i>Quercus geminata</i>) Water Oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>)
Zarucco Duskywing (<i>Erynnis zarucco</i>)	Bladderpod (<i>Sesbania vesicaria</i>) Carolina Indigo (<i>Indigofera caroliniana</i>) Danglepod (<i>Sesbania herbacea</i>) Downy Milkpea (<i>Galactia regularis</i>) Eastern Milkpea (<i>Galactia volubilis</i>)

Butterfly (*Scientific name*)**Host Plant** (*Scientific Name*)

Zarucco Duskywing (cont'd)	Elliott's Milkpea (<i>Galactia elliotii</i>)
Zebra Heliconian (<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>)	Corkystem Passionflower (<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>) Purple Passionflower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)
Zebra Swallowtail (<i>Eurytides marcellus</i>)	Bigflower Pawpaw (<i>Asimina obovata</i>) Netted Pawpaw (<i>Asimina reticulata</i>)

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