

PLANTS FOR BUTTERFLY AND POLLINATOR GARDENS

Native and non-native plants suitable for gardens in Texas

The plants listed here are suitable for school and home gardens in Texas. Native plants are indicated by "N." Nearly all of the native species are perennials. Among the non-natives those generally considered to be annuals are indicated by "A." Many of the plants listed as native do not occur throughout the eastern United States. Distributions of native plants can be found by consulting the North American Plant Atlas or by consulting the Plants Database provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA) <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>.

Key: N = Native, P = Perennial, Bi = Biennial, A = Annual

EP = Edwards Plateau NT = North Texas ET = East Texas ST = South Texas WT = West Texas

Common plant names that are in bold type are "musthaves" for beginner gardeners-- they are easy to find and grow and are all-round good pollinator plants.

Common Name	Latin Name											
Butterfly Host Plants for small to medium sized landscapes		Host Plant For	N	P	Bi	A	EP	NT	ET	ST	WT	
Antelope horn milkweed	<i>Asclepias asperula</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Green antelope horn milkweed	<i>Asclepias viridis</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Zizotes milkweed	<i>Asclepias oenotheroides</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Texas milkweed	<i>Asclepias texana</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓					
Green comet milkweed (Wand milkweed)	<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓					
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓	✓				
Whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	monarch	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Slim milkweed	<i>Asclepias linaris</i>	monarch	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Shore milkweed	<i>Asclepias perennis</i>	monarch	✓	✓					✓			
Fetid passionflower (Corona de Cristo)	<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	variegated and gulf fritillary	✓	✓			✓			✓		
Swanflower (Pipevine)	<i>Aristolochia erecta</i>	pipevine swallowtail	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
Woman's tobacco (Pussytoes)	<i>Antennaria Gaertn.</i>	American painted lady	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Twoleaf senna	<i>Senna roemeriana, S. lindheimeri</i>	sulphurs	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		
Daucosma	<i>Daucosma laciniata</i>	Black Swallowtail	✓			✓	✓					
Rue of the mountains (Dutchman's breeches)	<i>Thamnosia texana</i>	Black swallowtail	✓	✓			✓				✓	
Texas prairie parsley	<i>Polytaenia texana</i>	Black swallowtail	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		
Woody host plants for larger landscapes												
Texas kidneywood	<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	dogface sulphurs	✓	✓			✓			✓		
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush swallowtail	✓	✓			✓		✓			
Wright's desert honeysuckle (Flame Acanthus)	<i>Anisacanthus wrightii</i>	border patch	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> spp.	questionmarks and commas	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	Hairstreaks	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	elfin	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	hackberry and snout	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	
Prickly Ash	<i>Zanthoxylum parvum</i>	giant swallowtail	✓	✓			✓				✓	

Nectar Plants for Butterflies and Other Pollinators											
Spring											
Indian blanket	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Englemann's daisy	<i>Engelmannia peristenia</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual phlox	<i>Phlox drummondii</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Meadow garlic (Wild onion)	<i>Allium canadense</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Perfumeballs (Firewheel)	<i>Gaillardia suavis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Cedar Sage	<i>Salvia roemeriana</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Texas swampmallow (Rose pavonia)	<i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
False indigo bush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple poppy mallow (Wine cup)	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	
Prairie sunflower	<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>		✓			✓		✓			✓
Wooly butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja marrubiifolia</i>						✓				✓
Summer to early Autumn Plants											
Texas lantana	<i>Lantana urtecoides</i> (formerly <i>horrida</i>)		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Blue mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wax mallow (Turk's cap)	<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blacksamson echinaeea (Purple coneflower)	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lemon beebalm (Purple Horsemint)	<i>Monarda citriodora</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Golden Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baldwin's ironweed (Western Ironweed)	<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Common boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>		✓	✓			✓				✓
Cusp blazing star (Gay-Feather)	<i>Liatris mucronata</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
Canada goldenrod (Tall goldenrod)	<i>Solidago altissima</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gray goldenrod (Prairie goldenrod)	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wooly ironweed	<i>Vernonia lindheimeri</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Pinkladies (Pink Evening Primrose)	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Tropical Sage	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lanceleaf tickseed	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Azure blue sage	<i>Salvia azurea</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Simpson Rosinweed	<i>Silphium simpsonii</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Texas greeneyes	<i>Berlandiera texana</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cardinalflower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓		
Stiff greenthread	<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i>		✓			✓	✓			✓	
Dakota moch vervain (Prairie verbena)	<i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	
Cobaea beardtongue	<i>Penstemon cobaea</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		

Foxglove beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
American star thistle (Basket Flower)	<i>Centaurea americana</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
Prairie brazosmint	<i>Warnockia scutellarioides</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i> spp					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sulphur cosmos	<i>Cosmos sulphureus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bluemink (Ageratum)	<i>Ageratum houstonium</i> 'Blue Horizon'					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pentas	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i> 'Ruby Glow'					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mexican flame vine	<i>Senecio confuses</i> 'Sau Paulo'					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Globe amaranth	<i>Gomphrena haageana</i> 'QIS Orange'					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue salvia	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saliva, indigo spires	<i>Salvia longispicata</i> x <i>farinacea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boltonia	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i> 'Snowbank '					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lavender	<i>Lavandula</i> sp					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catmints	<i>Nepeta siberica</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Autumn Plants											
Autumn sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Havana snakeroot (Thoroughwort)	<i>Eupatorium havenensis</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Frostweed	<i>Verbesina virginica</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
Cowpen Daisy	<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Aromatic aster	<i>Aster oblongifolium</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Drummond's aster (Texas aster)	<i>Aster texanus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Willowleaf aster (Tall aster)	<i>Aster praealtus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Late purple aster (Spread-leaf aster)	<i>Aster patens</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
White heath aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			
Chrysanthemums	<i>C. leucanthemum</i> 'Sheffield Pink' and 'Bolero'					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nectar plants for larger landscapes											
Texas barometer bush (Cenizo)	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common buttonbush (shrub)	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maximillian sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Beebrush	<i>Aloysia gratissima</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓
Evergreen sumac	<i>Rhus virens</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
Yellow trumpetbush (Esperanza)	<i>Tacoma stans</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Diversity is the key to a successful Monarch Waystation. Select a location in full sun or one that receives at least eight hours of direct sunlight daily. When choosing plants, whether native or non-native, use only single-flowered varieties. To create a showy block of color and fragrance, plant each species in clusters of 7-9 plants. Grow your own plants organically or purchase plants from nurseries whose growers DO NOT use systemic insecticides or any other pesticides on their plants. If they are uncertain, ask them to find out before you make your purchase.

For more information on creating a Monarch Waystation and instructions for certification, please see monarchwatch.org/waystations/. If you have questions or need guidance, please contact us through our Bring Back The Monarch email address - bbtm@monarchwatch.org.

To enhance your garden incorporate other elements besides plants such as places for pollinators to seek shelter from the wind and rain and wet sandy or muddy spots for butterflies to imbibe salts and other nutrients. A location with dark stones or tiles for butterflies to perch on to warm up on cool mornings adds to the activity in the garden. Most importantly, discontinue use of all pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) in the area, and ask bordering neighbors to do the same.

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