

BUTTERFLY PLANTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY

1. BUTTERFLY HOST PLANTS (specific butterfly species will lay eggs on their host plant, and caterpillars will then hatch and use plant as their sole food source):

Asclepias curassavica Orange Butterfly Weed

Easy to grow perennial to 18", full sun regular water, orange yellow cluster of flowers at ends, reseeds. Dormant in colder areas. Cut seed heads off if you don't want it to reseed. **Host plant for the monarch butterfly.**

Cassia bicapsularis 'Butter Creme' Primrose Senna

Fast and easy to grow drought tolerant shrub or small tree to 10'. Flowers are a pale primrose-yellow. Blooms late summer through early spring. One of the best shrub choices for Southern California. These plants are cutting grown. **Host plant for the Cloudless Sulphur butterfly.**

Passiflora 'Constance Elliot' White Passion Vine

This fast growing passion vine has pure white fragrant flowers. Full sun with good drainage. Can grow to 30' in two seasons. Relatively small foliage. **Host plant for the Gulf Fritillary butterfly.** Caterpillars can decimate the vine in summer, but quickly recovers.

Plumbago auriculata 'Royal Cape'

Special new dark blue form of this extremely easy to grow mounding perennial shrub. Full sun, any soil. Gets about 5' tall and wide, would be stunning on a bank. Very drought tolerant once established. Can be cut to the ground in the spring or summer to rejuvenate occasionally. **Great nectar source for all butterflies, and a host plant for the Marine Blue butterfly.**

Rhamnus 'Eve Chase' Coffee Berry

An evergreen shrub that grows fast to 6-8'. Its native range extends from the Oregon Coast ranges through most of California into Arizona and Baja. It grows in full sun to

part shade and has low water requirements. The berries turn red, then black. This plant is very drought tolerant, almost always deer proof. It also makes a great fire break if watered occasionally. It's a great wildlife plant. **Host plant for the Pale Swallowtail butterfly.**

Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa' Corkscrew Willow

A deciduous tree, with twisted branch structure. Frequently used in flower arrangements. Gets 20' or more in the landscape. This form has golden branches. If lit in the winter can cast beautiful shadows on structures. Roots easily, even in water. **Host plant for the Mourning Cloak butterfly.**

Parsley 'Single Leaf Italian'

The common garden herb, more typically used as a garnish, this selection has a better flavor. Usually lives only a few years, but will reseed in the garden. **Host plant for the Anise Swallowtail butterfly.**

Anethum graveolens Dill

The common garden herb. Lacy foliage can mound up to 3' or more, white flowers bloom in the summer. Usually lives only a few years, but will reseed in the garden. **Host plant for the Anise Swallowtail butterfly.**

Ferula communis Fennel

The common garden herb. Lacy foliage can mound up to 4' or more, yellowish-white flowers bloom in the summer. Usually lives only a few years, but will reseed in the garden. **Host plant for the Anise Swallowtail butterfly.**

2. BUTTERFLY NECTAR PLANTS (food source for all butterflies):

Buddleja 'Opera' Butterfly Bush

Rare cultivar of easy to grow perennial with huge 36" long panicles of lavender pink. Very fragrant flowers. Upright growth to 8'. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies for a drink of the nectar. Drought tolerant in Seattle.

Lantana camara 'Lemon Swirl' Variegated Lantana

Yellow flowers and yellow variegation. The plant is somewhat compact, ideal in the border or container, or even a hanging basket. Full sun, not picky about soil, and drought tolerant once established. Prune a little all the time or cut back to the ground in the summer. Rabbit resistant. Great nectar source for butterflies.

Lantana montevidensis

Common purple groundcover with small purple flowers year round. It likes full sun, is not picky about soil, and is drought tolerant once established. Maintenance is easy, just cut a little all the time or cut back to the ground in the summer when the plant gets too thick. If done while it's hot, they come back fast. A white form exists called L. m. 'White Lightning'. If grown very dry, the plant will stay very low to ground, and need very little maintenance. Under cut the plant at the edges to prevent a hedged look. Rabbit resistant. Great nectar source for butterflies.

Lantana 'Sunny Daze'

A bright-variegated form of the common ground covers with purple flowers to 2' tall. Full sun, are not picky about soil, drought tolerant once established. Trim a little all the time or cut back to the ground in the summer. A great a hanging basket. More compact than species. Rabbit resistant. Great nectar source for butterflies.