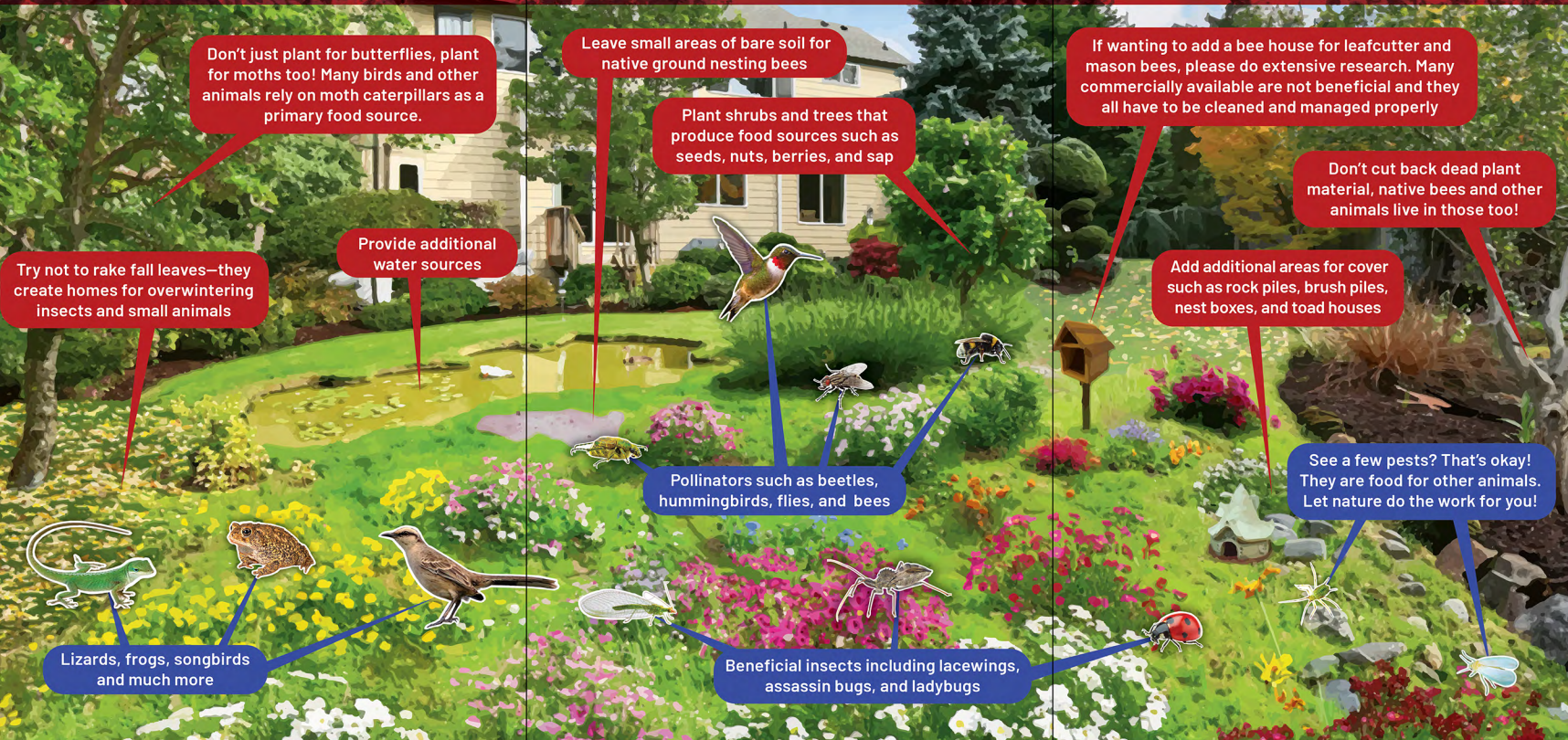
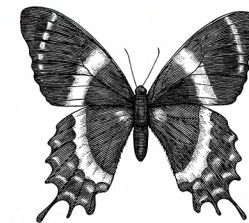


# Want to attract and support even more pollinators and other wildlife?



**Butterfly gardens turn into wildlife gardens**

**COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER**



**HOUSTON MUSEUM**  
*of NATURAL SCIENCE*

For more information and resources about pollinator gardening, please visit

<https://www.hmns.org/pollinator-gardening/>

Or e-mail us at

[butterfly@hmns.org](mailto:butterfly@hmns.org)



5555 Hermann Park Dr  
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**COCKRELL BUTTERFLY CENTER**

## *Guide to Gardening For Butterflies*

*and other pollinators*



Underwritten by

**The Garden Club of Houston**  
[www.gchouston.org](http://www.gchouston.org)

# Basics of Gardening for Butterflies

## NECTAR AND HOST PLANTS – YOU NEED BOTH!

- Nectar plants create food for many adult butterflies
- Host plants are the caterpillars' food
- Individual butterfly species may feed from a variety of nectar plants, but they are all host plant specific



## HELPFUL TIPS FOR NECTAR PLANTS:

- Avoid double and hybrid plants, they don't have as much nectar
- Best flower colors are pink, red, purple, orange, and yellow
- Plant in groupings of 3 or more to better attract butterflies.
- Select plants that bloom at different times of year so you'll have flowers year-round

## TIPS FOR HOST PLANTS:

- Make sure you are getting host plants for butterfly species in your area
- The caterpillars will be eating the leaves of these plants—it's a good thing!
- Note that many host plants (and nectar plants) are toxic to people and pets

## OTHER TIPS:

- Habitats can be any size—even as small as a container garden on a patio
- Plant in a sunny area, sheltered from strong winds
- Large flat rocks or logs in full sun create basking areas
- **NEVER USE PESTICIDES**
- Include a source of water
- Create a fruit feeding station by placing overripe fruit in a shaded area

# Butterfly Life Cycle

## EGG

- Often laid on host plant's new growth or leaf undersides
- Most species hatch in 3-4 days

## CATERPILLAR

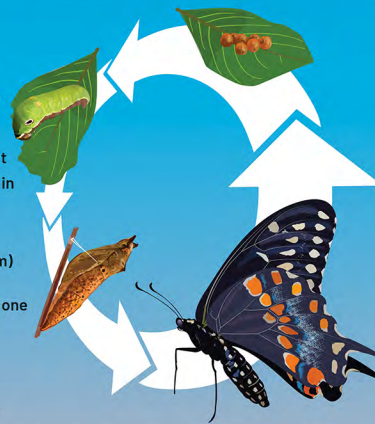
- Found feeding on the host plant
- Most species spend 10-21 days in this stage

## CHRYSALIS

- Metamorphosis (change in form) takes place
- Typically, this stage lasts from one to several weeks

## ADULT

- Emerges from chrysalis
- Most species live 2 to 6 weeks



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Caterpillars' (and other insects') poop is called frass
- Butterflies do not have cocoons, but some moths do
- The word chrysalis comes from the Greek root word for gold because many have gold-colored spots
- Most species drink flower nectar, but others prefer rotting fruit
- Butterflies often visit mud puddles, carrion, dung and even alligator tears to find necessary nutrients

# Here's a list of our favorite nectar plants

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brown &amp; Black-eyed Susans</b> (<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Mexican Blanket</b> (<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Purple Cone Flower</b> (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Asters</b> (<i>Aster</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Mexican Heather</b> (<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Bee Balm</b> (<i>Monarda</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Blazing Star</b> (<i>Liatris</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Verbenas</b> (<i>Verbena</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Orange Zexmenia</b> (<i>Wedelia hispida</i>)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Zinnias</b> (<i>Zinnia elegans</i> and others)</li> <li>• <b>Coral Plant</b> (<i>Russelia</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Boneset, Mistflower, or Joe-Pye Weed</b> (<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Lantana</b> (<i>Lantana</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Milkweed</b> (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Mexican Sunflower</b> (<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Salvias</b> (<i>Salvia</i> spp.)</li> <li>• <b>Wheat Celosia</b> (<i>Celosia spicata</i>)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Butterfly Bush</b> (<i>Buddleia davidii</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Buttonbush</b> (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Flame Bush</b> (<i>Hamelia patens</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Golden Dewdrop</b> (<i>Duranta repens</i>, <i>D. erecta</i>)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jatropha</b> (<i>Jatropha integerrima</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Mexican Bauhinia</b> (<i>Bauhinia mexicana</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Mexican Flame Vine</b> (<i>Senecio confusus</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Bells</b> (<i>Tecoma stans</i>)</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|---|
- **SPRING BLOOMS**    
 ● **SUMMER BLOOMS**    
 ● **FALL BLOOMS**

**MOST NECTAR PLANTS PREFER FULL OR AT LEAST PARTIAL SUN. DON'T HAVE FULL SUN? THESE ARE SOME SHADE-LOVING PLANTS**

- **Pentas** (*Pentas lanceolata*)
- **Porter Weed** (*Stachytarpheta* spp.)
- **Cigar Plant** (*Cuphea "David Verity"*)
- **Salvia "Wendy's Wish"** (*Salvia* sp. Hybrid)
- **Turk's Cap** (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*)
- **Cat Whiskers** (*Orthosiphon stamineus*)

# 10 Butterflies in Houston and their Host Plants

<p><b>MONARCH &amp; QUEEN</b>  <i>Danaus plexippus</i> &amp; <i>D. gilippus</i>  <b>MILKWEEDS</b>  <i>(Asclepias</i> spp.)</p>	<p><b>GULF FRITILLARY</b>  <i>Dione vanillae</i>  <b>PASSIONVINES</b>  <i>(Passiflora</i> spp.), especially <i>P. caerulea</i>, <i>P. incarnata</i>, or the hybrid <i>Passiflora 'incense'</i></p>	<p><b>GIANT SWALLOWTAIL</b>  <i>Papilio cresphontes</i>                  Citrus trees including lemon, lime, orange, etc. (<i>Citrus</i> spp.), wafer ash (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), prickly ash (<i>Zanthoxylum</i> spp.) and rue (<i>Ruta graveolens</i>)</p>	<p><b>SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL</b>  <i>Papilio troilus</i>                  Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>),  <b>SASSAFRAS</b>  <i>(Sassafras albidum)</i>, and red bay (<i>Persea borbonia</i>)</p>	<p><b>PIPEVINE &amp; POLYDAMAS SWALLOWTAILS</b>  <i>Battus philenor</i> &amp; <i>B. polydamas</i>  <b>PIPEVINES</b>  <i>(Aristolochia</i> spp.) especially <i>A. fimbriata</i>, <i>A. elegans</i>, or <i>A. tomentosa</i> (native)</p>	<p><b>BLACK SWALLOWTAIL</b>  <i>Papilio polyxenes</i>  <b>PLANTS IN THE PARSLEY FAMILY</b>  <i>(Apiaceae)</i> including dill, fennel, parsley, etc.; also rue</p>	<p><b>CLOUDLESS &amp; ORANGE BARRED SULPHURS</b>  <i>Phoebis sennae</i> &amp; <i>P. philae</i>  <b>SENNAS</b> (<i>Cassia</i> spp.) including <i>C. alata</i>, <i>C. corymbosa</i>, and <i>C. splendida</i>; Partridge pea (<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>)</p>	<p><b>TEXAN CRESCENT</b>  <i>Anthanasia texana</i>  <b>ACANTHUS FAMILY,</b>                  especially shrimp plant (<i>Bellaperone guttata</i>)</p>	<p><b>TAWNY EMPEROR &amp; HACKBERRY EMPEROR</b>  <i>Asterocampa clyton</i> &amp; <i>A. celtis</i>  <b>HACKBERRY TREES</b>  <i>(Celtis</i> spp.)</p>	<p><b>LONG-TAILED SKIPPER</b>  <i>Urbanus proteus</i>  <b>HYACINTH BEAN</b>  <i>(Phaseolus</i> spp.)                  Beans including bush and pole beans</p>
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