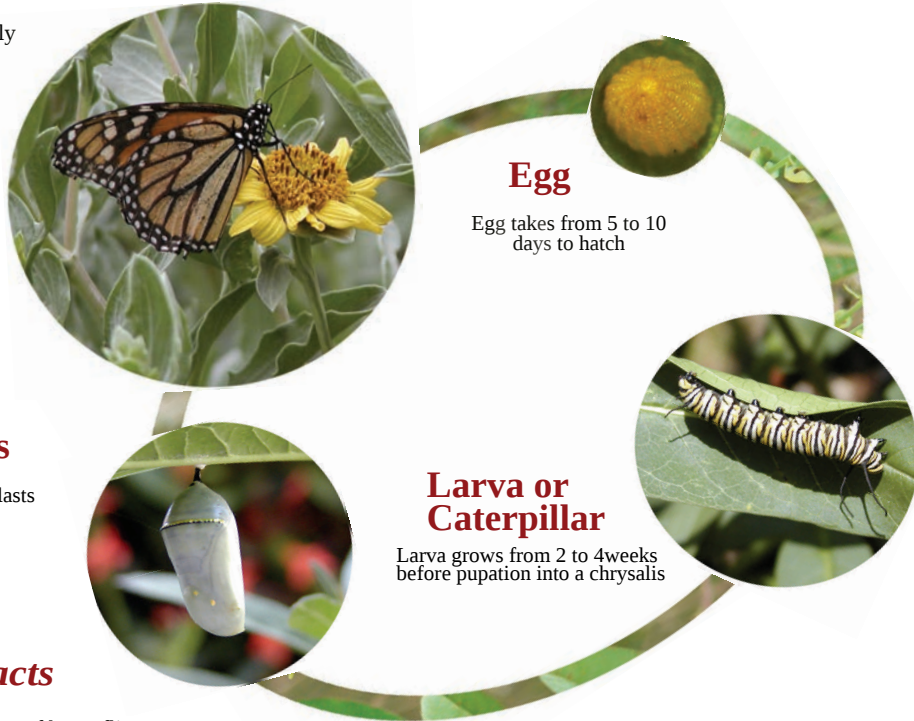


The Life Cycle of the Butterfly

Butterflies pass through several very different stages during their life cycle, a process called metamorphosis. The life span varies from a few days to a few months. However, the over-wintering Monarch is known to live for an average of 8 months. The longest lived butterfly in Broward County is the Zebra Longwing. Unlike other parts of the United States, butterflies in Broward County typically have continuous generations. The peak seasons for butterflies are spring, early summer, and fall. During the fall, Broward County witnesses its greatest abundance of butterflies, both migratory and resident.

Adult (Monarch *Danaus plexippus*)

Life span for a butterfly is 5 days to 6 months



Butterfly Facts

More than 725 species of butterflies are found in North America. Approximately 83 are found in Broward County.

Broward butterflies range in size from as small as just under 1/2 inch for the Amethyst Hairstreak to as large as the 5.5-inch Giant Swallowtail.

Butterfly feet possess a sense of taste. When the feet come in contact with nectar, the straw-like mouth, called the proboscis, uncoils.

Butterfly wings are covered with colorful overlapping scales which are mainly used for protection. These scales can also be modified to release an odor for females to attract males for mating and can also be faceted to refract light, creating iridescent hues.

The time from egg-laying to emergence of the adult butterfly varies from 29 to 53 days.

Adult butterflies do not chew leaves, bite or carry diseases.

Attracting Butterflies to Your Yard

Nectar flowers will bring butterflies to your yard to feed and are not harmed by the adult butterflies. Planting a food source for the caterpillars, which serve as host plants for larvae, will attract butterflies to your yard throughout their life cycle. The larval host plants are meant to be eaten by butterfly caterpillars.

Native plants are a good choice for attracting butterflies. The plants provide the nectar, and the butterflies pollinate the plants when they come to feed on the nectar.



Maintaining a Butterfly Garden

- **Do not use pesticides in your garden.** They will kill your butterflies. Use a strong jet of water or hand pick other garden pests.
- Choose natural organic or slow-release fertilizers with a low phosphorous level for fertilizing your plants.
- Mulch at least 3-4 inches deep to decrease weeds, but stay 4-12 inches from the stems to prevent stem rot.

For more information, visit: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/urban-horticulture-and-natural-resources/>

Email: Broward MG@ifas.ufl.edu with your butterfly questions.



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Broward's Butterflies



Butterflies and Caterpillars You Might See

Adult



Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*)

Caterpillar



Adult



Queen (*Danaus gilippus berenice*)

Caterpillar



Julia (*Dryas julia*)



Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) “Orange Dog caterpillar”



Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*)



Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)



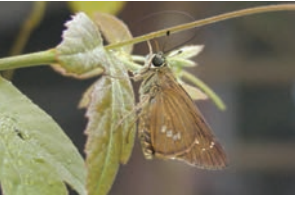
Statira Sulphurs (*Phoebis statira*)



Atala (*Eumaeus atala*)



Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*)



Canna Skipper (*Calpodus ethlius*)



Larval Host Plants

Remember: Larval host plants will be eaten by butterfly caterpillars. It is a good idea to plant larval host plants with other plants to avoid the "eaten look."

- **Corky-Stemmed Passion Vine** (*Passiflora suberosa*)
□ Gulf Fritillary, □ Zebra Longwing and □ Julia
- **Passion Flower** (*Passiflora incarnata*) but will accept any *Passiflora* except *Passiflora coccinea* *
□ Gulf Fritillary, □ Zebra Longwing and □ Julia
- **Chapman’s Senna** (*Senna chapmanii*)
□ Cloudless Sulphur and Orange-barred Sulphur
- **Coin Vine** (*Dalbergia ecastaphyllum*)
□ Statira Sulphur
- **Wild Tamarind** (*Lysiloma latisliqua*)
Large Orange Sulphur and Cassius Blue
- **Butterfly Weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
□ Monarch (on life cycle page) □ Queen
- **White Twine Vine** (*Sarcostemma clausum*)
Monarch (on life cycle page) □ Queen and □ Soldier
- **Wild Petunia** (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)
Common Buckeye
- **Wild Lime** (*Zanthoxylum fagara*)
□ Giant Swallowtail
- **Jamaica Dogwood** (*Piscidia piscipula*)
Hammock Skipper
- **Parsley, Fennel, Dill*** and plants in the Carrot family
□ Black Swallowtail
- **Bay Cedar** (*Suriana maritima*) Modest, Cuban Grey, Mallo-scrub, and Grey Hairstreaks
- **Coontie** (*Zamia floridana*)
□ Atala
- **Cowpea** (*Vigna luteola*) or other plants in the pea family
Long Tailed Skipper
- **Golden Canna** (*Canna flaccida*)
□ Canna Skipper and other Skipper species

* Indicates Non-native Plant.

□ Butterfly Pictured at Left

Note: Vines in general are very aggressive at best and take extra work to contain them. Planting in a container or using a root-barrier may help reduce maintenance.

Coral Honeysuckle shown as faded background this page
Photos by Sandra Granson UF/Broward County Extension Education Section
Parks and Recreation Division

Tips for Your Butterfly Garden

- Place in a sunny, low-traffic area
- Make sure there are larger plants or a windbreak for shelter (north side of garden)
- Provide nectar plants
- Include larval host plants for butterflies that you see in your area or ones you would like to attract
- Provide a water source for drinking or a damp area for males to extract salts
- Place flat rocks in sunny places for butterflies to warm themselves

Nectar Plants

Adult butterflies need nectar throughout their adult lives. Be sure to plant a number of diverse species so you will have flowers blooming continuously during the year.

When choosing nectar plants, vary the color; species, flower shapes and sizes, and plant in blocks of color. Red, yellow, orange, pink or purple blossoms with flattened tops and short tube flowers are favored. As a general rule, flowers with strong fragrances also have the best nectar.

Here are some suggestions for nectar plants:

- Gaillardia or Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
- Scorpion’s tail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*)
- Florida Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*)
- Necklace Pod (*Sophora tomentosa*)
- Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
- Snowberry (*Chiococca alba*)
- Bloodberry (*Cordia globosa*)
- Walter’s Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)
- Blue Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
- Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
- Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*) *
- Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)
- Mist Flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)
- Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)
- Brown Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)
- Pineland Heliotrope (*Heliotropium polyphyllum*)
- Yellowtop (*Flaveria linearis*)