

# Three Host Plants That Will Bring Seven Butterflies to Your Garden

## Host or Larval Plant:

Butterflies choose to lay their eggs on or near plants that the caterpillars will eat. Each species has a narrow range of plants that its caterpillar phase will be nourished by. These plants supply certain chemicals necessary for the growth on the caterpillars. The host or larval plant is simply a plant that is eaten by the caterpillar.

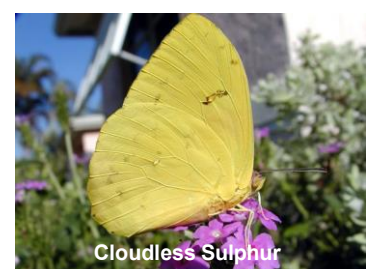
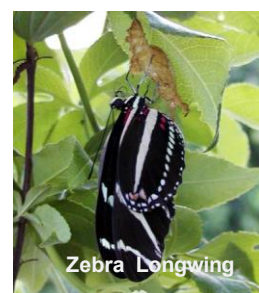
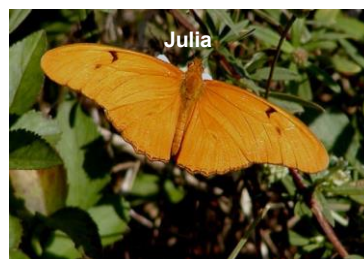
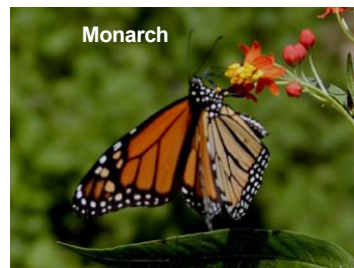
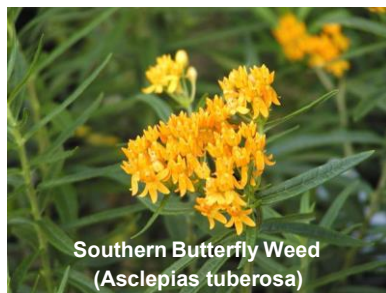


## Nectar Plants:

A plant that attracts adult butterflies by supplying nectar. These plants may vary in size, color, fragrance, and shape of their flowers; but they all produce nectar that adult butterflies can sip. Nectar plants are not consumed by adult butterflies themselves

## Three Host Plants

## Seven Butterflies



# Butterfly Garden Tips

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

## 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.

## If you are interested in butterflies, these references can help:

- Online at the University of Florida <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Butterfly Gardening in Florida<sup>1</sup>, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/edw/UW/UW05700.pdf>
- Community ButterflyScaping: How to Move Beyond Butterfly Gardening to Create a Large-Scale Butterfly Habitat <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/edw/EP/EP42000.pdf>.

## Books

- Butterfly Gardening, A Guide to the Deep South by Daniels, Jaret C. 2000, IFAS, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- Florida Butterfly Gardening, by Minno, Marc C. and Maria Minno, 199, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Do you have gardening questions? E-Mail [BrowardMG@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:BrowardMG@ifas.ufl.edu)



## UF-IFAS/ Extension Broward County

3245 College Ave • Davie, FL 33314 • Phone (954) 756-8533

An Equal Opportunity Institution and Employer

Revised September 2025