BASICS OF BUTTERFLY AND MOSQUITO GARDENING

- Adult butterflies and moths are attracted to two types of plants: 1) nectar plants with flowers that adults can land on and drink nectar from, and 2) host plants to lay their eggs on and provide food for developing caterpillars.

- Nectar plants have flowers with surfaces that butterflies can stand on while they feed. They prefer flat-topped clusters of small individual flowers, such as daisies, yarrows, buckwheats and coyote mints. Nectar plants for moths often flower at night and may have long nectar tubes to accommodate the moths’ specialized mouth parts.

- Host plants have leaves or petals that caterpillars will eat. Many caterpillars are host specific, meaning they require particular plant species for food. Monarch caterpillars, for example, feed exclusively on milkweed (Asclepias spp.).

- Choose plants that are likely to attract butterflies and moths found in your region. This list provides resources that describe which of these insects are common in your area and includes plants likely to attract butterflies and moths that frequent the L.A. basin and local foothills.

- You will have caterpillars feeding on some of your plants. Accept some munching on the leaves and, chances are, you’ll start seeing more butterflies and moths soon.

- Allow some leaf litter to accumulate in your garden. It provides habitat for numerous insects, including ground-pupating butterflies and moths, which in turn attract foraging birds and lizards.

- Avoid using insecticides, especially Bt – most insecticides kill indiscriminately, targeting both pests and beneficials. Bt targets caterpillars.

- A butterfly and moth garden is an ecosystem. By using native plants, thus reducing or eliminating the use of water, pesticides and chemical fertilizers, you will be supporting not only butterflies and moths, but a host of insect species, birds, reptiles and other wildlife.

RESOURCES

Books
Caterpillars in the Field and Garden, Thomas J. Allen, James P. Brock and Jeffrey Glassberg, Oxford University Press, 2005
An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies, Fred Heath and Herbert Clark, Mountain Press 2004
Insects of the Los Angeles Basin, Charles L. Hogue, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 1993

Websites
Butterflies and Moths of North America, butterfliesandmoths.org
Monarch Watch, monarchwatch.org
North American Butterfly Association, naba.org
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, xerces.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This plant:</th>
<th>is food for:</th>
<th>and nectar for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acmispon glaber, deerweed</td>
<td>many species</td>
<td>blues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achillea millefolium and cvs., yarrow</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adenostoma spp., chamise, redshanks</td>
<td>grey hairstreak</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aesculus californica, CA buckeye</td>
<td>echo blue, spring azure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agave spp., agave</td>
<td>giant skipper</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alnus rhombifolia, white alder</td>
<td>western tiger swallowtail</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amorpha californica, false indigo</td>
<td>grey hairstreak, CA dogface</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arctostaphylos spp. and cvs., manzanita</td>
<td>ceanothus silk moth</td>
<td>monarch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbutus menziesii, madrone</td>
<td>western brown elfin, Doudoroff’s</td>
<td>monarch, striated queen, Acmon blue,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hairstreak, ceanothus silk moth</td>
<td>West Coast lady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asteraceae spp., daisy family, composites</td>
<td></td>
<td>many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astragalus spp., locoweed</td>
<td>many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baileya multiradiata, desert marigold</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baccharis pilularis and cvs., coyote brush</td>
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<td>many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calliandra californica, red fairy duster</td>
<td>hairstreaks and blues</td>
<td>hairstreaks and blues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceanothus spp. and cvs., CA Lilac</td>
<td>hairstreaks, pale swallowtail, brown elfin, spring azure, echo blue, duskywings, CA tortoiseshell, ceanothus silk moth</td>
<td>painted lady, many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cercocarpus betuloides, mountain mahogany</td>
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<td>hairstreaks, ceanothus silk moth</td>
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<td>Cirsium occidentale, cobweb thistle</td>
<td>painted lady</td>
<td>many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Datura wrightii, sacred datura, jimson weed (toxic to mammals)</td>
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<td>moth species</td>
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<td>Encelia californica, CA bush sunflower</td>
<td>fatal metalmark, dusky metalmark</td>
<td>many species</td>
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<td>Erigeron spp. and cvs., seaside daisy</td>
<td>CA dogface</td>
<td>many species</td>
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<td>Epilobium spp. and cvs., CA fuchsia</td>
<td>white-lined sphinx moth</td>
<td>giant swallowtail, CA dogface, white-lined sphinx moth</td>
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<td>Ericameria spp., common names vary</td>
<td>northern checkerspot</td>
<td>buckeye, painted lady, skippers</td>
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<td>Erigidicton spp., yerba santa</td>
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<td>Eriogonum fasciculatum, CA buckwheat</td>
<td>hairstreaks, blues, Mormon metalmark, many species</td>
<td>Acmon blue, mournful duskywing, American lady, painted lady, many species</td>
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<td>Eriogonum parvifolium, coast buckwheat</td>
<td>El Segundo blue (endangered)</td>
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<td>Frangula californica, coffeeberry</td>
<td>pale swallowtail, ceanothus silk moth, grey hairstreak</td>
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<td>Helianthus annuus, common sunflower</td>
<td>painted lady, bordered patch</td>
<td>many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hesperoyucca whipplei, chaparral yucca</td>
<td>yucca moth</td>
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<td>Lupinus spp., lupine (toxic to mammals)</td>
<td>Arrowhead blue, painted lady</td>
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<td>Malosma laurina, laurel sumac</td>
<td>ceanothus silk moth</td>
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<td>Mirabilis spp., four o’clock</td>
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<td>moth species</td>
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<td>Mimulus aurantiacus, sticky monkeyflower</td>
<td>buckeye, variable checkerspot</td>
<td>many species</td>
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<td>Monardella spp., coyote mint</td>
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<td>many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oenothera spp., evening primrose</td>
<td>white-lined sphinx moth</td>
<td>moth species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanus racemosa, western sycamore</td>
<td>western tiger swallowtail</td>
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<td>Poaceae, grass family</td>
<td>skippers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quercus spp., oak</td>
<td>CA sister, mournful duskywing, hairstreaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salix spp., willow</td>
<td>western tiger swallowtail, mourning cloak, Lorquin’s admiral, ceanothus silk moth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvia spp. and cvs., sage</td>
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<td>many species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solidago spp., goldenrod</td>
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<td>many species</td>
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<td>Verbena lilacina and cvs., lilac verbena</td>
<td>grey hairstreak</td>
<td>painted lady, mournful duskywing, many species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urtica dioica, stinging nettle</td>
<td>red admiral, west coast lady</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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