

Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

LARVAL HOST for Monarch (Danaus plexippus), Queen (Danaus gilippus) and Gray Hairstreak (Strymon melinus) butterflies. From www.floridata.com: unique among milkweeds in that the sap is not milky and leaves are not opposite. Deep taproot makes transplanting difficult. Self-sows freely, deadhead if you don't want volunteers.



Tropical Butterfly Weed

Asclepias curassavica

LARVAL HOST for the Monarch and Queen butterflies. From Michael Womack: . . . Another required plant for butterfly gardens - it is most noted as the preferred larval plant for monarch butterflies. From www.floridata.com: Like most milkweeds, it has opposite leaves and milky sap.



Esperanza

Tecoma stans

LARVAL HOST for: Plebeian sphinx moth (Paratrea plebeja). from www.floridata.com: Var. stans is a Central American tree that grows to 25 ft. Arizona yellow bells (var. angustata) is a 10 ft deciduous shrub. Gold Star Esperanza grows to 3-4 ft. Perfect for the South Texas Gulf Coast.



Firecracker

Russelia equisetiformis

LARVAL HOST for: Common Buckeye butterfly (Junonia coenia). Has a white variant. From www.magnoliagardensnursery.com: Produces thin wiry-like foliage and scarlet to coral tubular flowers. Great for containers or for spilling over walls, much like a fountain.



Flame Acanthus

Anisacanthus quadrifidus "Wrightii"

LARVAL HOST for Janais Patch, Texan Crescent (Anthanassa texana) comes back readily after a freeze. From wildflower.org: This spreading, drought- and cold-tolerant shrub will adapt to a variety of soils and does well in patio pots. Cutting the plant back severely in winter will provide more blooms and encourage a bushier form.



Greenthread

Thelesperma filifolium

LARVAL HOST for: Dainty Sulphur (Nathalis iole) butterfly. Native to the prairies of Central & Western Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, & Mexico, striking when planted in mass. From uvalde.tamu.edu: Greenthread blooms between March and June and often into the fall.



Porterweed, Blue

Stachytarpheta jamaicensis

LARVAL HOST for: Tropical Buckeye butterfly (Junonia genoveva). from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>: Plants grow about 4 feet tall before stems droop and touch the ground. Blue or pink flowers are borne terminally on long, stringy spikes at the ends of the stems. Rich, dark green foliage is displayed on square, green stems.



Tropical Sage

Salvia coccinea

LARVAL HOST for Painted Lady butterfly (Vanessa cardui). From article in Rockport Pilot by Ernie Edmundson: Covered with bright red flowers, is a perennial salvia. It makes a great ground cover in both shade or sun by just trimming back periodically with a line trimmer.



Skeleton-Leaf Goldeneye

Viguiera stenoloba

from <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>: With its skeletal dark green leaves, golden daisies and rounded growth habit, it is an extremely ornamental shrub or sub-shrub. It adapts to most well-drained sites in full sun, and will benefit from being cut back to maintain a dense shrubby appearance.



Trumpet Creeper

Campsis radicans

LARVAL HOST for: Plebeian sphinx moth (Paratrea plebeja). May be invasive. From www.wildflowers.org: Trumpet creeper grows tall with support. It can damage wood and other soft structures when it attaches to walls by aerial roots or suckers. It colonizes by ground suckers and self layering and can get out of control.

