

Suggested Pollinator-Attracting Plants for Brazos County

Most Plants on This List Should ...

Be planted in a sunny location. Exceptions are noted under Description/Notes.

Be planted in well-drained soil; i.e., soil from which water percolates reasonably quickly and does not pool.

Be planted far enough apart to allow for good air circulation around individual plants.

Require minimum fertilizer.

Butterflies like flat-faced or tubular or spikey flowers. Hummingbirds prefer tubular flowers. Bees like nectar flowers.

H = Host plant; one that nourishes larvae, caterpillars, and immature butterflies.

N = Nectar-providing plant; one that nourishes the adult butterfly.

Native plants are indicated by an "" after the common name. Pollinators and native flowering plants have co-evolved over time; they depend on each other for survival and reproduction. It is important to include some native flowering plants in your garden to provide the nectar and foliage needed by caterpillars and adult butterflies.*

HERBS

| Common Name | Botanical Name | Bloom Time | Bloom Color | Water Needs | H/N | Description/Notes of Pollinators Attracted to This Plant |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------|---|
| Basil | <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> | Spr - frost | Blue-violet | Med | N | Bees. |
| Borage | <i>Borago officinalis</i> | Sum | Blue-purple | Med | H | Butterfly: Painted Lady. Bees. |
| Dill | <i>Anethum graveolens</i> | Spr - Fall | Yellow | Med | H & N | Butterfly: Eastern Black Swallowtail. Bees. |
| Fennel | <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> | Spr - Fall | Yellow | Med | H & N | Butterfly: Eastern Black Swallowtail. Bees. |
| Mexican Mint Marigold | <i>Tagetes lucida</i> | Spr - Fall | Yellow | Med | H | Sun to pt shade. Substitute for French Tarragon. Butterflies: Monarch and many other species. Bees. |
| Parsley | <i>Petroselinum crispum</i> | Spr - Fall | Yellow-green | Med | H | Curly-leaf varieties preferred to flat-leaf. Butterfly: Eastern Black Swallowtail. Bees. |

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----|-------|--|
| Aster * | <i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i> | Fall | Purple | Low | H & N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: American Lady, Common Buckeye, Orange Sulphur, Painted Lady, Pearl Crescent, Question Mark, Red Admiral, Variegated Fritillary. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Coreopsis * | <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> | Spr -Sum | Yellow | Med | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Common Buckeye, Monarch. Hummingbirds. |
| Cosmos * | <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> | Sum - Fall | Red, White, Pink, Orange | Med | N | Butterflies: Painted Lady, Dainty Sulphur. Bees. |
| Dianthus or Sweet William | <i>Dianthus barbatus</i> | Win - Sum | Pink, Red, White | Med | N | Sun to pt shade. Butterfly: Giant or Tiger Swallowtail |

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| Esperanza * | <i>Tecoma stans</i> | Spr - Fall | Yellow | Low | H & N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Giant Hairstreak, Skippers spp. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Fragrant Mistflower * | <i>Eupatorium havenensis</i> | Fall - frost | White | Med | H & N | Butterflies: Monarch, Painted Lady, Queen. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Gregg's Mistflower * | <i>Conoclinium greggii</i> | Spr - Fall | Blue, Purple | Med | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Common Buckeye, Monarch, Queen. Bees. |
| Hesperaloe or Red Yucca* | <i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> | Spr - Sum | Red | Low | N | Hummingbirds. |
| Lantana; many varieties | <i>Lantana camara</i> | Spr - Fall | Red, Orange, Yellow | Low | H & N | Sun to pt shade. Butterflies: Checkered White, Monarch, Painted Lady, Pipevine Swallowtail, Queen, Red-spotted Purple. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Mexican Tithonia or Sunflower | <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i> | Sum - Frost | Orange, Red | Med | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Gulf Fritillary, Monarch, Queen, Swallowtails. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Milkweed | <i>Asclepias spp.</i> | Spr -frost | Orange, Yellow | Low | H & N | Butterflies: Black Swallowtail, Gray Hairstreak, Gulf Fritillary, Monarch, Queen, Soldier, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady, Pearl Crescent, Pipevine Swallowtail, Question Mark, Red-spotted Purple. Bees. |
| Butterflyweed * | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | Spr - frost | Orange or Yellow | Low | H & N | Best species for Monarch habitat. Blooms are solid orange or yellow. Frost tender. |
| Tropical or Mexican B'flyweed | <i>Asclepias curassavica</i> | Spr - frost | Orange and Yellow Mix | Low | H & N | May not die back after first frost, so remove flowers to encourage Monarchs to migrate. |
| Antelope Horn * | <i>Asclepias asperula</i> | Spr - frost | White, Green | Low | H & N | Limited availability; difficult to grow |
| Green Milkweed * | <i>Asclepias viridis</i> | Spr - frost | White, Green | Low | H & N | Limited availability; difficult to grow |
| Monarda or Bee Balm * | <i>Monarda didyma</i> | Spr - Fall | Red, Pink, Lavender | Med | N | Butterflies: various. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Penstemon * | <i>Penstemon tenuis</i> | Spr - Sum | Purple | Med | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: various species. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Pentas | <i>Pentas lanceolata</i> | Spr - Fall | Red, White, Lavender | Med | N | Butterflies: Monarch, Swallowtails. |
| Cape Plumbago | <i>Plumbago auriculata</i> | Spr - Fall | Blue, White | Med | N | Butterflies: Swallowtails, Clouded Sulphur. Hummingbirds. |
| Purple Coneflower * | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | Spr - Fall | Purple-Pink | Med | H & N | Sun to pt shade. Butterflies: American Lady, Red Admiral, Black/Giant/Tiger Swallowtail, Silver Checkerspot, Viceroy. Bees. |
| Salvia * | <i>Salvia coccinea, S. farinacea, S. greggii</i> | Spr - frost | Blue | Low | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Clouded Sulphur, Giant Swallowtail, Monarch. Bees. |
| Shrimp Plant | <i>Justicia brandegeana</i> | Spr - frost | White bracts Red-Pink tips | Med | N | Part shade. Butterfly: Black Swallowtail. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Snapdragon | <i>Antirrhinum majus</i> | Sum - Fall | Yellow, pink, red, etc. | Med | H & N | Butterfly: Common Buckeye. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Turk's Cap * | <i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i> | Spr - frost | Red, Pink, or White | Med | H | Part to full shade. Butterflies: Sulphur spp. Bees. Hummingbirds. |

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| Verbena * | <i>Verbena bonariensis</i> | Spr - frost | Purple | Med | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Common Buckeye, Monarch, Queen. Bees. |
| Yarrow * | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | Spr - Fall | Pink, White, Yellow | Med | N | Butterfly: Painted Lady. Bees. |
| Zinnia | <i>Zinnia elegans</i> , <i>Z. augustifolia</i> | Spr - Fall | Varies | Low | N | Sun to part shade. Butterfly: Pearl Crescent. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| WILDFLOWERS (all native) | | | | | | |
| Black-eyed Susan | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> | Sum - Fall | Yellow petals | Low | H | Butterflies: Monarch, Silvery Crescent. Bees. |
| Blackfoot Daisy * | <i>Melampodium leucanthum</i> | Spr - Fall | White | Low | N | Butterflies: various. Bees. |
| Bluebonnet * | <i>Lupinus texensis</i> | Spr | Blue, Maroon | Low | H & N | Butterflies: Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Gayfeather | <i>Liatris mucronata</i> | Sum - Fall | Purple | Low | N | Butterfly: Painted Lady. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Indian Blanket | <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> | Spr - Sum | Red-orange-yellow | Low | N | Butterflies: various. Bees. |
| Sunflower | <i>Helianthus annuus</i> | Sum - Fall | Yellow | Med | H | Butterflies: American Lady, American Snout, Bordered Patch, Checkerspot spp., Monarch. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Texas Thistle | <i>Cirsium texanum</i> | Spr - Sum | Pink, Violet | Low | H | Butterfly: Painted Lady. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| GROUNDCOVERS & BORDERS | | | | | | |
| Clover, crimson * | <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> | Spr | Red | Low | H | Butterflies: Clouded Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak. Bees. |
| Four Nerve Daisy * | <i>Tetraneuris scaposa</i> | Spr -Fall | Yellow | Low | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: various. Bees. |
| Gregg Dalea * | <i>Dalea greggii</i> | Spr - Sum | Purple | Low | H | Butterflies: various. Bees. |
| Heartleaf Ice Plant | <i>Aptenia cordifolia</i> | Spr - Sum | Red | Low | N | Butterflies: various. Bees. |
| Ruellia, dwarf | <i>Ruellia brittoniana 'Katie'</i> | Sum - Fall | Pink, Purple, White | Low | H | Butterflies: Clouded Sulphur, Skippers spp. |

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| ORNAMENTAL GRASSES | | | | | | |
| Mexican Feather Grass * | <i>Nasella (Stipa) tenuissima</i> | Sum | Silver fades to Gold | Low | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Skippers spp. |
| Muhly * 'Gulf' | <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> | Fall | Deep Pink plumes | Low | N | Butterflies: Skippers spp. Bees |
| Muhly * 'Lindheimer' | <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i> | Fall | Silvery plumes | Med | N | Butterflies: Skippers spp. |
| VINES | | | | | | |
| Coral Honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> | Win - Spr | Coral | Low | N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: various. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Passionflower * | <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> | Spr - Sum | Lavender, Violet, Rose | Med | H & N | Sun to part shade. Butterflies: Gray Hairstreak, Gulf/Variiegated Fritillary. Bees. |
| Pipe Vine / Dutchman's Pipe | <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> | Sum | Purple, Yellow, Green | | H | Sun to part shade. Butterfly: Pipevine Swallowtail. Bees. |
| SHRUBS | | | | | | |
| American Beautyberry * | <i>Callicarpa americana</i> | Sum | Pale Pink | Med | N | Part to full shade. Fall berries feed 40 species of songbirds. Butterflies: various species. |
| Butterfly Bush | <i>Buddleia davidii</i> | Spr - frost | White-blue-purple | Med | H & N | Butterflies: Black/Giant/Pipevine Swallowtails, Eastern Comma, Gulf/Variiegated Fritillary, Painted Lady, Question Mark, Red Admiral. Bees. Hummingbirds. |
| Duranta | <i>Duranta erecta</i> | Sum | Blue, White | Med | N | Butterflies: Clouded Sulphur Gulf Fritillary, Painted Lady, Queen. Bees |
| Wax Myrtle * | <i>Myrica cerifera</i> | Spr | Yellow, Tan | Low | H | Sun to part shade. Butterfly: Red-banded Hairstreak. |
| TREES | | | | | | |
| Citrus | <i>Citrus sp.</i> | Spr | White | Med | H & N | Butterfly: Giant Swallowtail. |
| Kidneywood | <i>Eysenhardtia texana</i> | Spr - Fall | White | Low | H | Butterflies: Gray Hairstreak. Bees. |
| Firebush | <i>Hamelia patens</i> | Sum | Red | High | N | Butterflies: Gulf Fritillary, Sulphur sp., Swallowtail sp. Hummingbirds. |
| Mexican Plum * | <i>Prunus mexicana</i> | Win | White, Pink | Low | H | Butterflies: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy. Bees. |
| Redbud | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Spr | Red | Low | N | Butterflies: Dusky Wing sp., Gray Hairstreak, Swallowtail sp. |