

Sleepy Orange
(*Abaeis nicippe*)
Wingspan: 1 3/8" to 2 ¼"
Food: cassia species
Nectar: various flowers



Orange Sulphur
(*Colias eurytheme*)
Wingspan: 1 3/8" to 2 ¾"
Food: Pea family, clover
Nectar: milkweed, aster, goldenrod



Mexican Yellow
(*Eurema Mexicana*)
Wingspan: 1 ¾" to 2 ½"
Food: fern acacia, cassia species
Nectar: cassia and acacia species



Dainty Sulphur
(*Nathalis iole*)
Wingspan: ¾" to 1 ¼"
Food: *Dyssodia*, sneezeweed, *Tagetes*
Nectar: asters, marigold, rabbitbrush



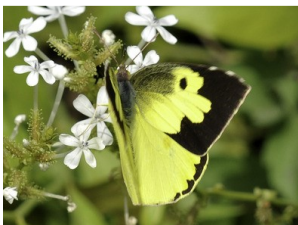
Large Orange Sulphur
(*Phoebis agarithe*)
Wingspan: 2 ¼" to 3 3/8"
Food: Texas ebony, feather tree
Nectar: bougainvillea, hibiscus, lantana



Cloudless Sulphur
(*Phoebis sennae*)
Wingspan: 2 ¼" to 3 1/8"
Food: cassia species, desert senna
Nectar: bougainvillea, desert senna, hibiscus, lantana



Tailed Orange
(*Pyrisitia proterpia*)
Wingspan: 1 ¾" to 2 ¼"
Food: mesquite, cassia species
Nectar: various flowers



Southern Dogface
(*Zerene cesonia*)
Wingspan: 2 1/8" to 3"
Food: alfalfa, Baja fairy duster, dalea
Nectar: coreopsis, verbena

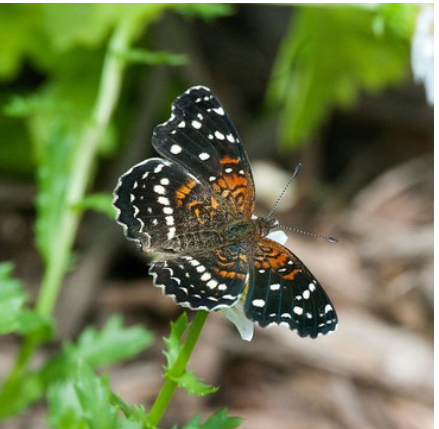
Queen
(*Danaus gilippus*)
Wingspan: 2 5/8" to 3 7/8"
Food: milkweed species
Nectar: milkweeds, frogfruit



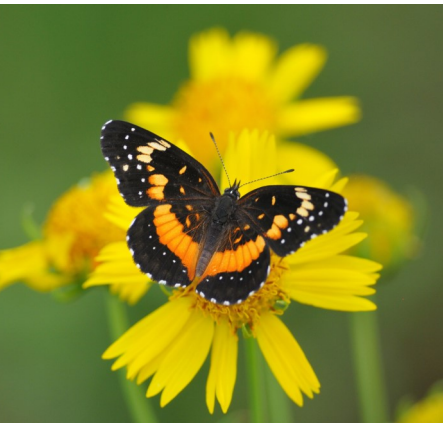
Empress Leilia
(*Asterocampa leilia*)
Wingspan: 1 ½" to 3"
Food: desert hackberry
Nectar: sap, dung, some nectar



Texan Crescent
(*Anthanassa texana*)
Wingspan: 1 ¼" to 1 7/8"
Food: jacobina, ruellia, frogfruit
Nectar: betony, dicliptera, frogfruit



Bordered Patch
(*Chlosyne lacinia*)
Wingspan: 1 3/8" to 2"
Food: Sunflower family, ragweed
Nectar: various flowers



Monarch
(*Danaus plexippus*)
Wingspan: 3 3/8" to 4 7/8"
Food: milkweed species
Nectar: milkweed species, composites



Gulf Fritillary
(*Agraulis vanillae*)
Wingspan: 2 ½" to 3 ¾"
Food: *Passiflora* (Passionflower)
Nectar: composites, lantana



Variegated Fritillary
(*Euptoieta claudia*)
Wingspan: 1 ¾" to 3 1/8"
Food: *Passiflora* (passionflower)
Nectar: aster, fleabane, milkweed, thistle



Mexican Fritillary
(*Euptoieta hegesia*)
Wingspan: 2 ½" to 3"
Food: morning glory, *Passiflora* (passionflower)
Nectar: lantana



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Common Buckeye
(*Junonia coenia*)
Wingspan: 1 5/8” to 2¾”
Food: toadflax, ruellia,
Snapdragon family
Nectar: aster, chickory,
peppermint



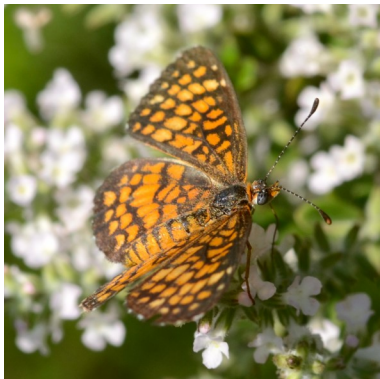
American Snout
(*Libytheana carineta*)
Wingspan: 1 3/8” to 2”
Food: desert and western
hackberry
Nectar: aster, black-eyed
Susan, goldenrod



Tiny Checkerspot
(*Dymasia dymas*)
Wingspan: 7/8” to 1 3/8”
Food: Acanthus family
Nectar: various flowers



Elada Checkerspot
(*Texola elada*)
Wingspan: 7/8” to 1¼”
Food: yellow composites
Nectar: various flowers



Funereal Duskywing
(*Erynnis funeralis*)
Wingspan: 1 ¼” to 1 ¾”
Food: deerweed,
desert ironwood
Nectar: Mexican
oregano, wolfberry



West Coast Lady
(*Vanessa annabella*)
Wingspan: 1½” to 2¼”
Food: Mallow family
Nectar: various flowers



Painted Lady
(*Vanessa cardui*)
Wingspan: 2”to 2 7/8”
Food: legumes, mallow,
thistle
Nectar: aster, milkweed,
thistle



Palmer’s Metalmark
(*Apodemia palmeri*)
Wingspan: ¾” to 1 1/8”
Food: honey and
screwbean mesquite
Nectar: honey and
screwbean mesquite



Fatal Metalmark
(*Calephelis nemesi*)
Wingspan: ¾” to 1”
Food: brittlebush,
seepwillow
Nectar: brittlebush



Cabbage White
(*Pieris rapae*)
Wingspan: 1¾” to 2¼”
Food: Mustard family
Nectar: mustard,
clover, aster, mint



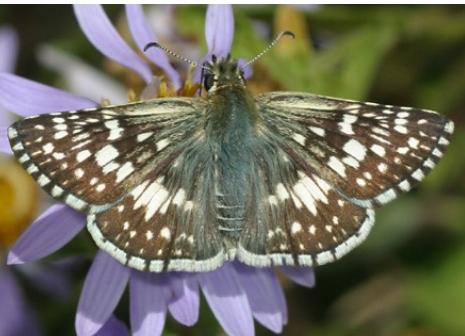
Checkered White
(*Pontia protodice*)
Wingspan: 1 ½” to 2 ½”
Food: mustard family
including cabbage
Nectar: mustards and
composites



Fiery Skipper
(*Hylephila phyleus*)
Wingspan: 1¼” to 1½”
Food: Bermuda and other
grasses
Nectar: milkweed, aster,
thistle



Eufala Skipper
(*Lerodea eufala*)
Wingspan: 1” to 1 ¼”
Food: Bermuda and
Johnson grass
Nectar: alfalfa,
composites



White Checkered-Skipper
(*Pyrgus albescens*)
Wingspan: 1” to 1 ½”
Food: globemallow,
desert ironwood
Nectar: knapweed,
red clover,
sweetbush



Arizona Powdered Skipper
(*Systasea zampa*)
Wingspan: 1 to 1 ½”
Food: Mallow family
Nectar: various flowers



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Mourning Cloak
(Nymphalis antiopa)
Wingspan: 2¼” to 4”
Food: willow, cotton-wood, hackberry
Nectar: oak sap, rotting fruit



Pipevine Swallowtail
(Battus philenor)
Wingspan: 2 ¾” to 5”
Food: *Aristolochia* (pipevine)
Nectar: lantana, lupine, thistle, verben



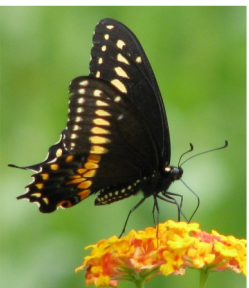


Giant Swallowtail
(Papilio cresphontes)
Wingspan: 4” to 6 ¼”
Food: citrus
Nectar: bougainvillea, lantana



Black Swallowtail
(Papilio polyxenes)
Wingspan: 3¼” to 4¼”
Food: citrus, Parsley family
Nectar: milkweed, clover, thistle







Western Pygmy-Blue
(Brephidium exilis)
Wingspan: ½” to ¾”
world’s smallest
Food: saltbush
Nectar: fourwing saltbush, goldenrod



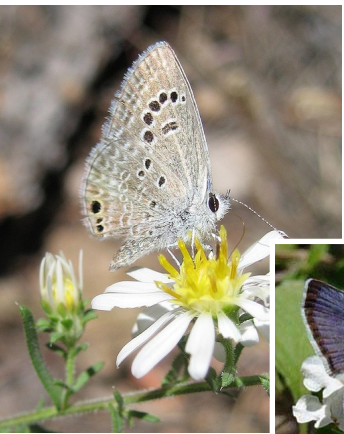



Spring ‘Echo’ Azure
(Celastrina ladon echo)
Wingspan: ¾” to 1¼”
Food: includes elderberry
Nectar: various flowers, buckwheat





Reakirt’s Blue
(Echinargus isola)
Wingspan: ¾” to 1 1/8”
Food: *Astragalus*, dalea, mesquite
Nectar: rabbitbrush







Ceraunus Blue
(Hemiargus ceraunus)
Wingspan: ¾” to 1 1/8”
Food: Baja fairy duster, mesquite
Nectar: various flowers





Marine Blue
(Leptotes marina)
Wingspan: 7/8” to 1 1/8”
Food: *Astragalus*, kidney-wood, legumes, mesquite
Nectar: alfalfa, kidney-wood, plumbago






Great Purple Hairstreak
(Atlides halesus)
Wingspan: 1¼” to 2”
Food: mistletoe
Nectar: goldenrod, sweet pepperbush, wild plum



Leda Ministreak
(Ministrymon leda)
Wingspan: ¾” to 7/8”
Food: mesquite
Nectar: beebush, lantana, mesquite



Gray Hairstreak
(Strymon melinus)
Wingspan: 7/8” to 1 3/8”
Food: Mallow and Pea families, cotton
Nectar: milkweed, mint





Based on several years’ observations, here is a list of butterfly species you are most likely to see in the gardens and when:

QUEEN — common all year
Noxious chemicals in the milkweeds that feed both adults and caterpillars make the butterflies and their young distasteful and help deter potential predators.

GULF FRITILLARY — common all year
The Gulf is one of the “longwing” butterflies, having long, narrow wings as compared to other butterflies.

PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL — common all year
At rest, these distinctive butterflies rhythmically open and close their wings, fluttering them when feeding.

MARINE BLUE — common spring to fall
Caterpillars at rest on Velvet Mesquite resemble a mesquite leaf.

TEXAN CRESCENT — common spring to fall
Caterpillars feed en masse, laying trails of silk threads to anchor themselves to the plant and guide their sib- lings.

SLEEPY ORANGE — common spring to fall
It may have gotten its name from the black spot on each forewing that resembles a closed eye.

CLOUDLESS SULPHUR — common spring to fall
This Sulphur is taken from Phoebe (*Phoebis*), one of the oracles at Delphi, and the genus *Senna* (*sennae*) to which many of the species’ larval plants belong.

SOUTHERN DOGFACE — common spring to fall
In this case it’s the upper side of the forewing that sports a dogface pattern.

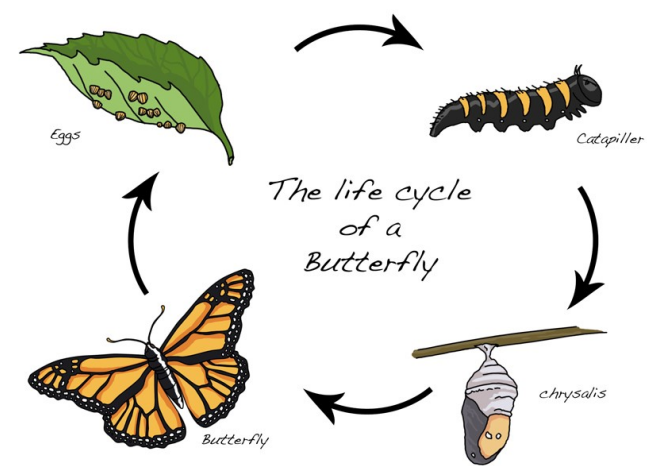
DAINTY SULPHUR — common spring to fall
Adults rest with their wings closed, holding them per- pendicular to the sun to warm themselves.

MONARCH – uncommon all year
Monarchs migrate thousands of miles each year to winter along the California coast and in central Mexico.

GIANT SWALLOWTAIL — common spring to fall
Caterpillars, known as “orange dogs,” feed exclusively on citrus leaves; their resemblance to bird droppings serves as the perfect disguise from predators!

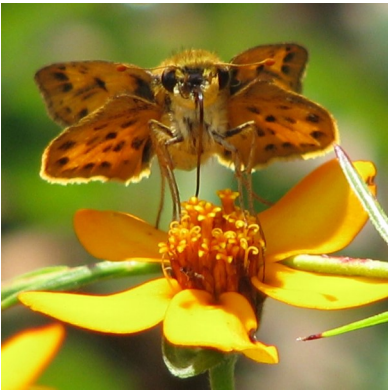
Butterfly Life Cycle

Found on every continent except Antarctica and in every kind of habitat from tropical forests to tundra, butterflies don't begin life as beautiful, winged creatures, but start out as wriggly caterpillars. Over the course of several weeks, caterpillars spend all their time eating leaves and flowers, shedding their skins as they grow bigger. When the time is right, they begin the process of *metamorphosis*. Turning that final shed skin into a pupa, or chrysalis, they continue the transformation process, emerging weeks, or even months, later as an adult butterfly. Most adults live only a short time, just long enough to lay eggs for the next generation.



Eating for Two

Adult butterflies drink their meals, a liquid diet of nectar from flowers, sap from trees or juice from ripe fruits. They use their *proboscis*, a long, tube-like tongue, just like a straw. When not in use, it conveniently curls up like a garden hose.



Without the ability to chew, adults use specialized sensors in their feet to “taste” a plant before deciding whether it is one their caterpillars can eat and therefore a good place to lay their eggs.

Unlike their adult selves, caterpillars chew their leafy food, using strong jaws. Virtual eating machines, caterpillars are actually picky eaters, each species having its own “go-to” plants.

Puddle Parties

Ever wondered what that gathering of butterflies was doing around that mud puddle? To supplement their diet of sugars, butterflies gather salts and other minerals from damp soil and muddied water. Males are more likely to go “puddling,” the minerals collected passed along in their sperm improving the viability of the female’s eggs.



Butterfly or Moth?

How do you tell the difference? Butterflies are generally active during the day, while moths are nocturnal. Butterflies have smooth antennae that end in a rounded bulb, while those of moths are feathered. At rest, a butterfly holds its wings upright; moths fold their wings over their back. Butterflies perform their transformation in a chrysalis hanging from a stem or branch or even a wall. Moths either spin a cocoon of silk or pupate underground. And finally, though some moths can be colorful, butterflies are the ones whose brilliant colors make them standouts in the natural world.

Going “Native” Attracts Butterflies



Select plants native to the Sonoran Desert or other arid regions for your garden. Provide a mix of both larval and nectar plants; a variety of flowering plants also insures a year round nectar supply. Plant in groups, masses of flowers are more likely to attract passing butterflies. Finally, avoid pesticides and herbicides. What else? Fill a pie plate with gravel and then keep filled with fresh water for drinks and/or provide a damp soil area where adults can acquire needed salts and minerals. You can even set out pieces of overripe fruit which will attract species like the Empress Leilia which prefers rotted fruit and tree sap.

Larval Plants

Dutchman’s Pipe (*Aristolochia watsonii*) – summer-fall – Pipevine Swallowtail
Arizona Passionflower (*Passiflora foetida*) – late spring-fall – Gulf Fritillary

Both Larval and Adult Plants

Pineleaf (*Asclepias linaria*) and Desert Milkweed (*A. subulata*) – spring-fall – Queen and Monarch (larval), Queen and Painted Lady (adult)
Baja Fairy Duster (*Calliandra californica*) – all year – Ceraunus Blue (larval and adult)
Dogweed (*Dyssodia pentachaeta*) – all year – Dainty Sulphur (larval), Dainty Sulphur and Western Pygmy Blue (adult)
Desert Senna (*Senna covesii*) – spring-fall – Cloudless Sulphur (larval and adult)

Adult Plants

Butterfly Mist (*Ageratum corymbosum*) – spring-fall – Queen, Painted Lady
Woolly Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia marrubifolia*) – spring-summer – multiple species
Red Bird of Paradise (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*) – late spring-fall – Swallowtails and Sulphurs
Lantana species (*Lantana* sp.) – spring-fall – multiple species
Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*) – spring and fall – multiple species

Migration . . . on the road again!

Just like birds, many butterflies will relocate to avoid seasonal changes in the weather or to find new food sources. Most notable is the Monarch and its annual two-way migration. Some species “overwinter” as caterpillars, pupae or even as adults, but Monarchs cannot live through a cold winter. Traveling as much as 3,000 miles one-way, Monarchs from west of the Rocky Mountains spend the winter along the California coast while those from central North America spend the winter in roosts in the mountains of central Mexico in large colonies of millions of individuals. When spring comes, they head north again, successive generations journeying all the way back to where their “ancestors” started.

