Planting for Butterflies

You can attract butterflies by growing plants they need. Most butterflies can feed on nectar from a wide variety of plants, but cannot reproduce without their native host plants. You can help by planting the host species in this guide and protecting habitats where they grow naturally.

Though most butterfly species use several host plants, this guide only lists one plant per butterfly, with both common and scientific names. Because common names vary and some species look similar, reference the scientific name when buying plants. Be sure to buy plants that have not been treated with pesticides. Pesticides can be toxic to butterflies and other insects.

While native plants are crucial for butterflies, they can be hard to find. Sources of Georgia native plants, additional planting tips, and many more butterflies can be found at www.nabageorgia.weebly.com.



PROTECTING THE MAJESTIC

MONARCHS

Monarchs east of the Rockies have declined significantly since 1995.

During spring and summer, monarchs breed throughout the U.S. and southern Canada.

In the fall, adults of an eastern population migrate to Mexico for the winter. The following spring, these butterflies fly northward, many crossing Georgia.

To survive these long journeys, monarchs need nectar from flowering plants all along their tuberosa

route and milkweed on which to lay eggs in spring. The eggs hatch into caterpillars that can only eat milkweed leaves.

SUGGESTED GEORGIA NATIVE MILKWEEDS

Butterflyweed (Asclepias tuberosa)
Clasping milkweed (Asclepias amplexicaulis)
Redring milkweed (Asclepias variegata)
Whorled milkweed (Asclepias verticillata)

Georgia is

backyard

can attract

Milkweed and other native butterfly host plants have been reduced in recent years due to a number of factors, including human development, agriculture, mowing, climate change, and the use of chemical weed killers (herbicides).

Some scientists are concerned the spread of tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) in the U.S. has negative impacts on monarch migration. To avoid potential risks of growing tropical milkweed, cut it to the ground in late fall and also include Georgia native milkweeds and nectar plants in your garden.





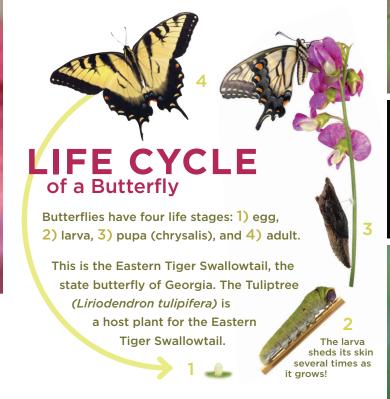








Some butterflies completely ignore flowers but will happily eat spoiled fruit!



MONARCH or VICEROY



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Monarchs Mílkweed & more, llc



BUTTERFLIES!

WHO'S ON

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail adult



GEORGIA BUTTERFLIES



