

A selection of plants to choose from for a Victorian butterfly garden



NATIVE Plants to attract butterflies for EGG LAYING

Plants: Native	Butterfly
Acacia-many species of wattle including Black, Silver and Golden Wattle, and Blackwood trees	Several species of butterflies ,including Hairstreaks Moonlight Jewell, Fiery Jewell,
<i>Alternanthera nodiflora</i> (Common Joyweed)	Varied Eggfly
<i>Amyena</i> spp.(Mistletoes)	Jezebels, and several blue butterflies
<i>Atherosperma moschatum</i> (SouthernSassafras); Sometimes on <i>Tasmannia lanceolata</i> (MountainPepper)	Macleay's Swallowtail butterfly
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> (Sweet Bursaria)	Bright Copper and Fiery Copper butterflies
<i>Capparis</i> spp.(Caper bushes)	Migrating Caper Whites and Yellow Albatross
<i>Carex appressa</i> (Tall Sedge)	Bright-eyed Brown butterfly
<i>Cassytha pubescens</i> ; <i>Cassytha melantha</i> (DodderLaurel)	Varied Dusky Blue; Blotched Dusky Blue
<i>Chrysocephalum</i> —all species, <i>Ammobium alatum</i> ; <i>Bracteantha bracteata</i>	Australian Painted Lady butterfly
<i>Cullen tenax</i> (Emufoot)	Chequered Swallowtails
<i>Daviesia brevifolia</i> (Leafless Bitter Pea), <i>Cullen</i> spp, peas.	Common Grass Blue
Eucalyptus: several species - Brown, Silver-leaved and Red Stringybark, Mountain Grey Gum, Long-Leaved and Yellow Box, Messmate, Swamp Gum, Narrow leafed Peppermint, Mountain Ash, Candlebark Gum	Mainly a nectar source for adult butterflies in Victoria, but can provide shelter for hidden Silky Hairstreak pupae if growing near smooth trunked Acacia host trees and the attendant ants are present.
<i>Exocarpus cupressiformis</i> (CherryBallart) and Quandong (<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>)	Spotted Jezebels
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Sword Grass Browns ,and several Skippers
<i>Glycine</i> vine, <i>Indigofera australis</i> ; other pea family plants	Grass Blues
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> ; <i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Several Skippers (<i>Trapezites</i> spp.)
<i>Micro citrus australasica</i> (FingerLime)	Dainty Swallowtail; Large Citrus or Orchard Swallowtail butterfly
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Ringed Xenica, Common Brown ,Silver Xenica, Spotted Brown and several Skippers
Native peas including <i>Aotus</i> spp., <i>Bossiaea</i> spp. ,Gorse bitter-pea, Showy Parrot-pea, Mallee Bush-pea, Bristly Bush-pea, Dense Bush-pea	Fringed Heath Blue butterfly
<i>Oxalis perennans</i> (Yellow Wood-sorrel)	Chequered Copper
<i>Parietaria debilis</i> (Shade Pellitory); Shade Nettle (<i>Australina pusilla</i> ssp. <i>muelleri</i>); Scrub Nettle(<i>Urtica incisa</i>)	Australian Yellow Admiral Butterfly
<i>Pimelea linifolia</i> (SlenderRice-flower); <i>Pimelea ligustrina</i> (Tall Rice-flower)	Yellow Spotted Blues
<i>Poa</i> grasses-many are host plants for many brown butterflies. <i>Poa tenera</i> is host to at least 10 species of butterfly around the Dandenong Ranges	Common Brown, Common Xenica etc. See Grass list below.
<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> (ElderberryPanax)	Dark Pencilled-blue
<i>Pomaderris aspera</i> (Hazel Pomaderris)	Yellow Jewel
Saltbushes	Saltbush blue butterflies
<i>Scaevola albida</i> ; <i>Plantago debilis</i> (SlenderorShade Plantain); <i>Portulaca</i>	Meadow Argus
<i>Senna</i> spp; <i>Cassia</i> spp.	Small Grass Yellow, Lemon Migrant, and White Migrants
<i>Themeda triandra</i> (Kangaroograss)	Common Brown, Common Xenica, Ringed Xenica, Klugs Xenica, Southern Dart, Shouldered Brown

NON-NATIVE Plants to attract butterflies for EGG LAYING

Plants:Non-Native	Butterfly
Asclepias and Gomphocarpus species (Milkweed)	Wanderer butterfly; Lesser Wanderer butterfly
<i>Choisya ternata</i> (Mexican Orange)	Orchard Swallowtail
Citrus-any type of citrus	Orchard Swallowtail and Dainty Swallowtail
<i>Genista monspessulana</i> (MontpellierBroom)	Long-tailed Pea-blue
Oleander	Common Crow
Peas ,beans and other legumes	Some blue butterflies
Portulaca	Meadow Argus
<i>Trifolium</i> spp. (Clover)	Grass Blues
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Meadow Argus

Plants that attract butterflies into the garden for NECTAR FEEDING

NativePlants	Non-nativePlants
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i> , <i>Brachyscome cardiocarpa</i>)	Abelia
<i>Brunonia australis</i> , <i>Banksia marginata</i> (Silver Banksia), <i>Banksia marginata</i> (Hairpin banksias)	Agastache,especially BlueBoa which also attracts Blue Banded bees
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> , <i>Brunonia australis</i> ,	Ageratum
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i> (Common Billy-buttons),	Anthemis daisies
<i>Epacris impressa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Aster
<i>Goodenia ovate</i> , <i>Hakea sericea</i> , <i>Hakea ulicina</i> , <i>Helichrysums</i>	Buddleja hybrids(at least one)
<i>Indigofer australis</i>	Catmint
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Cosmos
<i>Leptospermum</i> (Prickly,Woolly,and Silky Tea-tree)	Dahlia
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> , <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i>)	Daisies
<i>Olearia rambulosa</i>	Duranta
<i>Ozothamus obcordatus</i>	Echinacea hybrids
Paper Daisies-all types, <i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Lavender
<i>Pimeleas</i> (riceflower) powerful attractant in Spring	Liatris
<i>Scaevola</i> , <i>Stackhousia monogyna</i> (Creamy Candles)	Marigolds
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i> ; <i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i>	Pentas
	Salvia
	Scabiosa
	<i>Verbena polaris</i>
	Zinnia

List compiled by Yvonne Duke

References:

- 1) Pamphlet-Southern Dandenongs Community Nursery INC
- 2) Ross Field. *Butterflies Identification and Life History*. MuseumsAustralia
- 3) Braby, Michael. F. *The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia*. CSIRO publishing
- 4) Sankowsky, Garry. *A Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia. Their Histories and Larval Host Plants*.

GRASSES to plant for a Victorian Butterfly Garden

Grass-NATIVE	Butterfly
<i>Austrodanthonia</i> sp.(WallabyGrass)	White-banded Grass Dart,Marbled Xenica,Shouldered Brown
<i>Austrostipa flavescens</i>	Marbled Xenica
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Bright-eyed Brown
<i>Gahnia filum</i> ; <i>Gahnia trifida</i>	Golden-haired Skipper
<i>Gahnia radula</i>	Varied Sedge Skipper,Heath Sand Skipper
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Montane Grass Skipper, Spotted Sedge Skipper,Flame Sedge Skipper,Varied Sedge Skipper,Heath Sand Skipper, Varied Sword Grass Brown
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> (Wattle Mat Rush)	Montane Ochre
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> (Spiny-headed MatRush)	Yellow Ochre,Orange Ochre,Splendid Ochre,Barred Skipper
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> (Weeping Grass or Rice Grass)	Two Spotted Grass Skipper, Barred Skipper, Lilac Grass Skipper, White Banded Grass Dart, Silver Xenica,Ringed Xenica, Common Brown, Spotted Brown
<i>Patersonia</i> spp.	Eastern Grass Skipper
<i>Poa morrisii</i> ; <i>Poa labillardierei</i> ; <i>Poa ensiformis</i>	Marbled Xenica and Solander's Brown
<i>Poa tenera</i>	Barred Skipper,Bright Shield Skipper,White Banded Grass Dart, Forest Brown, Striped Xenica, Marbled Xenica, Common Brown,Spotted Brown,Banks Brown,Solander's Brown
<i>Tetrarrhenajuncea</i> (Wire Grass)	Southern Grass Skipper, Lilac Grass Skipper, BrightShield Skipper, Forest Brown, Striped Xenica, Bank's Brown, Solander's Brown
<i>Themeda triandra</i> (KangarooGrass)	Marbled Xenica, Common Brown, Shouldered Brown

Grass- NON-NATIVE	Butterfly
Buffalo Grass	Dingy Grass Skipper
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (Bladygrass)	White-banded Grass Dart,Green Grass Dart
Iris	Eastern Grass Skipper
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	White-banded Grass Dart