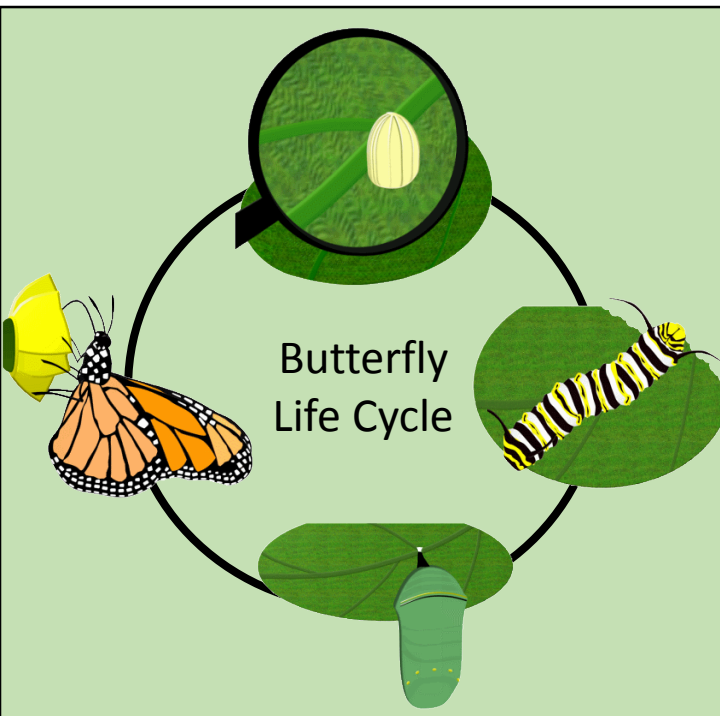


How to Attract Butterflies to Your Garden



Florida boasts over 180 verified butterfly species representing some 170 native or newly established species and 17 tropical vagrants. Within that mix, around 40 are considered either unique to the state or occur mostly within its boundaries. This diverse butterfly fauna is the highest of any state east of the Mississippi River and helps make Florida a premier location for butterfly gardeners.

Nectar Plants

Nectar plants are plants that butterflies visit to drink the nectar. Here is a small list of some easy to grow nectar plants for Seminole County.

- Beach Sunflower
- Blanket Flower
- Blue Porterweed
- Bush Daisy
- Firebush
- Golden Rod
- Pentas
- Purple Coneflower
- Salvias
- Scorpion Tail
- Sunshine Mimosa
- Zinnias

Host Plants

Host plants are plants that butterflies visit to lay their eggs on. Caterpillars emerge from the eggs and eat the leaves of the host plants. Here is a small list of some easy to grow host plants for Seminole County

- Ash Trees
- Coontie
- Dill
- Fennel
- Milkweed
- Passion Flower
- Pipevine
- Wild Lime
- Cassia shrubs/trees
- Purple Thistle

Butterflies lay their eggs on their host plant – a plant often specific to each species. The eggs hatch and the caterpillar eats the leaves of the host plant. Once it has eaten enough, the caterpillar turns into a chrysalis where it undergoes metamorphosis and emerges as a butterfly. Butterflies drink from nectar plants, and eventually lay their eggs on their host plant, starting the cycle again. Butterflies emerge from a chrysalis; moths emerge from a cocoon.

More Info at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw057>