

Any area of revegetation could not be complete, if consideration was not given to the sustainable addition of the jewels of the insect world.

Gardening for butterflies in south-east Queensland

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The principles of gardening for butterflies in south-east Queensland, are the same as for anywhere else in Australia, the only difference being the species of butterflies present in your particular area.

The major requirement of a butterfly is suitable habitat. This can then be broken down into other sections, “*larval foodplants*,” which put simply, means food for the caterpillars, “*nectar plants*,” food for the adult butterfly and “*ant presence*,” for those butterflies that can only survive with the assistance of ants. If a suitable habitat is established, the ants will move in and those butterflies reliant on them will soon follow.

It has been recorded that back in 1870, *Ornithoptera richmondia*, the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, was “*abundant in the streets of Brisbane*” and in 1873, “*very large numbers were observed feeding on bloodwood flowers on the Blackall Range, southern Queensland.*” If only we could see them like that today, it would truly be a magnificent sight.

Suggested reading:

Butterflies of Australia, Common & Waterhouse, 1981.

“What plants do caterpillars eat?”

Following is a list of “*larval foodplants*,” a lot of which are available from Barungs nursery.

CREATING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN IN THE MALENY AREA

PLANTS	BUTTERFLIES
<i>Acacia leiocalyx</i> *	Common imperial blue, Glistening blue
<i>Acacia sp.</i>	Double spotted lineblue
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Small green banded blue
<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>	Common aeroplane
<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	Orange palmdart
<i>Aristolochia pubera</i> *	Big greasy
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius, Brachychiton discolor</i>	Common aeroplane, Tailed emperor
<i>Breynia oblongifolia, Acacia maidenii</i>	Common grass yellow
<i>Capparis arborea</i>	Caper white, Common pearl white
<i>Cassia brewsteri, Cassia marksiana</i> *	Lemon migrant
<i>Cassia mimosoides</i> *	No brand grass yellow
<i>Citrus sp. (Orange, Lemon, etc.)</i> *	Capaneus butterfly, Dainty swallowtail
<i>Cryptocarya erythroxylon</i>	Eastern flat, Blue triangle
<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i>	Macleays swallowtail
<i>Cullen tenax</i> *	Chequered swallowtail
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> *	Six lineblue, Hairy lineblue
<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Large dingy skipper
<i>Drypetes deplanchei</i>	Common albatross
<i>Ficus coronata</i>	Common moonbeam
<i>Flindersia australis</i>	Orchard swallowtail
<i>Harpulia pendula</i>	Cornelian
<i>Helichrysum sp.</i> *	Painted lady
<i>Imperata sp. (Blady grass)</i>	Evening brown, Dingy ring
<i>Lomandra longifolia, Lomandra hystrix</i>	Symmomus skipper
<i>Macadamia integrifolia, Castanospermum australe</i>	Pencilled blue
<i>Melodorum leichhardtii</i>	Four barred swordtail, Pale triangle
<i>Millettia megasperma</i>	Large banded awl
<i>Oplismenus grass</i>	Wonder brown
<i>Pararistolochia praevanosa</i>	Richmond birdwing
<i>Parsonia straminea, Hoya australis</i>	Common crow
<i>Passiflora aurantia</i> *	Glasswing
<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	White nymph, Speckled lineblue
<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> *	Plumbago blue
<i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i>	Common eggfly, Leafwing
<i>Rapanea variabilis</i>	White lineblue
<i>Scaevola sp.</i> *	Meadow argus
<i>Scollopija braunii</i>	Australian rustic
<i>Urtica incisa</i>	Australian admiral
<i>Wilkiea huegiana, Wilkiea macrophylla</i>	Regent skipper

All of the plants listed above are “Larval foodplants” and are planted for the purpose of attracting butterflies into the area so that ovaposition can occur. As well as Larval foodplants, nectar producing plants should be provided as food for the adult butterflies. Callistemons are a perfect example of “nectar producing plants” and many more species of butterflies will be enticed into the area by planting them. Callistemons also support Mistletoes, which, if allowed to flourish, will increase the amount of species your garden will support by approximately 8-10.

** Denotes not necessarily local to the Maleny area, but are totally suitable*