

UCDAVIS



ARBORETUM AND
PUBLIC GARDEN

Butterflies in your Garden

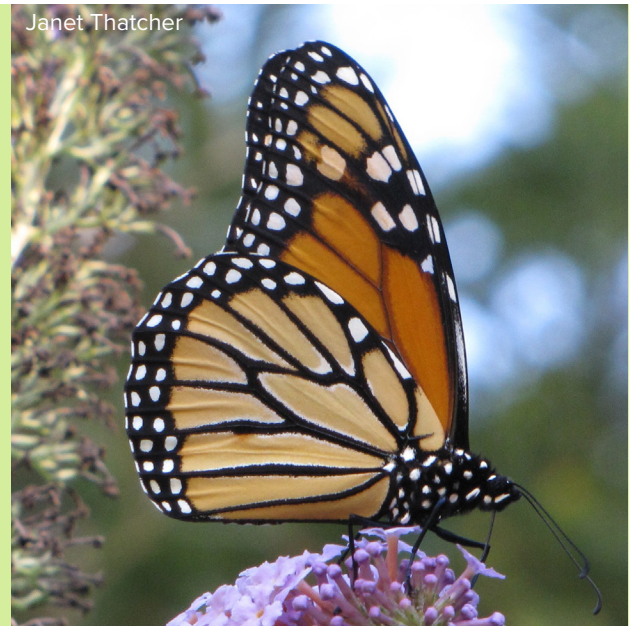
Katie Hetrick



About butterflies

- Butterflies are some of the most beautiful and graceful of the pollinators.
- Butterflies collect pollen on their legs and body as they flit from flower to flower and are important pollinators for many native plant species.
- Butterflies are most common in summer and fall in our area.
- Butterflies require different food sources for the caterpillar and the adult life stages.

Janet Thatcher



About caterpillars

- *Host plants* are the plant species a specific caterpillar will eat. Butterflies lay their eggs on these plants.
- Caterpillars, or larvae, are the immature (can't reproduce) stage of a butterfly.
- They are "eating machines" and from egg hatch to adult metamorphosis that's what they do, gobble the leaves of host plants.
- Butterfly larva can be picky eaters: some will eat only one species while others eat a broader variety of plants.



Adults sip nectar

- After metamorphosis the beautiful adults visit flowers to gather nectar for energy, sipping the liquid with long straw-like mouthparts.
- Some butterflies are more picky about nectar sources than others.

Butterflies and host plants



Pipevine Swallowtail



Aristolochia californica
California pipevine



Gulf Fritillary



Passiflora species
passionflower vine

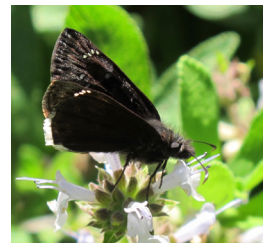


Western Tiger Swallowtail



Fraxinus species
ash tree

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Mournful Dusky-Wing



Quercus species
oak tree

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Nectar plants for adult butterflies



Asclepias species
milkweed

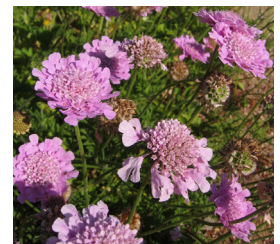
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Lavandula x gingsii
'Goodwin Creek Gray',
Goodwin Creek lavender



Buddleja davidii hybrids
butterfly bush



Scabiosa atropurpurea
pincushion flower

References

Shapiro, A.M. and T.D. Manolis. 2007. Field Guide to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Region (California Natural History Guides). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Ponder, Marissa V. *How to Attract and Maintain Pollinators in Your Garden*. ANR Publication 8498, October 2013.

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