

Suggested Plants for Butterfly Gardens or Yards in the South Carolina Lowcountry

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Type	Height	Origin	Spread	Lifespan	Bloom Time	Sunlight	Moisture	Soil Type	Dry Sand	Wetland	Saltwater	Forested	Urban	Nectar	Pollen	Host Plant
Yellow Thistle	<i>Cirsium horridulum</i>	Herbaceous	18-30in	Native	No	Biennial	March-May	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Not picky	Maybe					Excellent	Excellent	Yes
Virginia Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	Herbaceous	18-30in	Native	Aggressive	Evergreen	April-May	All	Wet	Pond edge		Yes			Maybe	Fair	Good	
Lance-leaved Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Herbaceous	18-24in	Native	Volunteer	Perennial	April-May	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes				Maybe	Fair	Good	
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Herbaceous	24-36in	Native-ish	Clumper	Semi-Evergreen	April-May	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moist	Not picky	Yes			Edge	Yes	Fair	Good	
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Herbaceous	18-60in	Middle East	No	Annual	April-May	Full Sun	Moderate	Well-drained						Good	Great	Yes
Daisy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Herbaceous	12-30in	Native	Volunteer	Annual	April-June	Full Sun	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes					Fair	Fair	
Indian Blanket	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Herbaceous	6-12in	Native	Volunteer	Annual	April-July	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes		Spray		Yes	Poor	Good	
Cucumberleaf Sunflower	<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	Herbaceous	12-18in	Gulf Coast	Volunteer	Annual	April-July	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes		Spray			Good	Good	
Goldenmane Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis basilis</i>	Herbaceous	12-18in	Gulf Coast	Volunteer	Annual	May	Full Sun	Moderate	Well-drained	Maybe				Maybe	Poor	Poor	
Golden Canna	<i>Canna flaccida</i>	Herbaceous	36-60in	Native	Clumper	Evergreen	May-June	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moist-Wet	Rich & Damp		Yes			Maybe	Fair	Fair	Yes
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Herbaceous	18-24in	Native	Volunteer	Perennial	May-June	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes			Yes	Maybe	Poor	Fair	
Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Herbaceous	18-24in	Native	No	Perennial	May-June	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained					Maybe	Good	Good	Yes
Leek	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Herbaceous	12-18in	South Europe	Pups	Evergreen	May-June	Full Sun	Moist	Rich & Damp					Maybe	Good	Good	
Aquatic Milkweed	<i>Asclepias perennis</i>	Herbaceous	18-24in	Native	No	Perennial	May-July	Part-Full Shade	Wet	Rich & Damp		Yes				Good	Good	Yes
Pickernelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Herbaceous	24-36in	Native	Aggressive	Perennial	May-July	Full Sun-Part Shade	Wet	Pond edge		Yes				Excellent	Great	
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia elegans</i>	Herbaceous	24-72in	Mexico	No	Annual	May-Nov.	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Not picky					Yes	Great	Great	
Marsh Pink	<i>Sabatia stellaris</i>	Herbaceous	6-12in	Native	Volunteer	Annual	June-July	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Salt Marsh			Moderate			Poor	Fair	
Sensitive Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista nictitans</i>	Herbaceous	12-24in	Native	Volunteer	Annual	Aug.-Sept.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry	Well-drained	Yes				Maybe	Poor	Great	Multiple
Spotted Beebalm	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Herbaceous	24-36in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	Aug.-Sept.	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes				Maybe	Fair	Excellent	
Elegant Blazing-Star	<i>Liatris elegans</i>	Herbaceous	18-30in	Native	No	Perennial	Aug.-Oct.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry	Well-drained	Yes					Good	Fair	
Dense Blazing-Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Herbaceous	18-30in	Native	No	Perennial	Aug.-Oct.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes				Maybe	Great	Good	
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Herbaceous	18-30in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	September	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moist-Wet	Damp		Yes				Fair	Fair	
Carolina Sea Lavender	<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>	Herbaceous	12-18in	Native	No	Semi-Evergreen	September	Full Sun	Moist	Salt Marsh			Full			Fair	Fair	
Blue Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Herbaceous	18-30in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	Sept.-Oct.	Part Shade	Dry-Moist	Well-drained		Maybe		Edge		Good	Good	
Forked Bluecurls	<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	Herbaceous	18-24in	Native	Volunteer	Annual	Sept.-Oct.	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes					Poor	Good	
Perennial Saltmarsh Aster	<i>Symphotrichum tenuifolium</i>	Herbaceous	12-18in	Native	No	Semi-Evergreen	October	Full Sun	Moist	Salt Marsh			Full			Fair	Fair	
Southern Seaside Goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	Herbaceous	18-24in	Native	No	Semi-Evergreen	October	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moist	Salt Marsh		Yes	Full			Good	Great	
Field Aster	<i>Symphotrichum dumosum</i>	Herbaceous	24-48in	Native	Volunteer	Perennial	October	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes				Yes	Good	Good	Yes
Elliott's Aster	<i>Symphotrichum elliotii</i>	Herbaceous	30-48in	Native	Aggressive	Perennial	Oct.-Nov.	Full Sun	Moist-Wet	Rich & Damp		Yes				Great	Great	Yes
Large, Bushy Wildflowers																		
Coralbean	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	Bushy	18-36in	Native	No	Perennial	April-May	Part-Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes		Light	Edge		Poor	Fair	
Powdery Alligator Flag	<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	Bushy	48-72in	Native	Clumper	Semi-Evergreen	May-June	Full Sun-Part Shade	Wet	Pond edge		Yes	Light			Fair	Fair	Yes
Hairy Leafcup	<i>Smallanthus uvedalia</i>	Bushy	48-60in	Native	Aggressive	Perennial	May-Sept.	Part Shade	Moderate	Rich				Yes		Good	Great	
Appalachian Mountain-Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum flexosum</i>	Bushy	36-54in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	June-July	Part Shade	Moderate	Well-drained				Yes		Great	Excellent	Yes
Saltmarsh Mallow	<i>Kosteletzkya pentacarpos</i>	Bushy	48-60in	Native	No	Perennial	July-Sept.	Full Sun	Moist-Wet	Salt Marsh		Yes	Light			Good	Good	Elsewhere
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Bushy	24-60in	Native	Volunteer	Annual	July-Sept.	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Maybe					Poor	Excellent	Multiple
Mexican Sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Bushy	36-60in	Mexico	No	Annual	July-Oct.	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Well-drained					Yes	Great	Good	
New York Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	Bushy	72-120in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	Aug.-Sept.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moist-Wet	Rich & Damp		Yes				Good	Great	
Sicklepod	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	Bushy	36-60in	Native-ish	Volunteer	Annual	Aug.-Sept.	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Not picky						Fair	Good	Multiple
Snow Squarstem	<i>Melanthera nivea</i>	Bushy	36-48in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	Aug.-Sept.	Part-Full Shade	Moderate-Moist	Damp						Good	Good	
Camphorweed	<i>Heterotheca subaxillaris</i>	Bushy	24-42in	Native	Volunteer	Perennial	Sept.-Oct.	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes		Spray		Maybe	Fair	Fair	
Frostweed	<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Bushy	48-72in	Native	Aggressive	Perennial	Sept.-Oct.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moderate	Well-drained				Edge		Good	Great	Yes
Muck Sunflower	<i>Helianthus simulans</i>	Bushy	60-108in	Gulf Coast	Aggressive	Perennial	October	Full Sun	Moist-Wet	Rich & Damp		Yes			Maybe	Good	Great	

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Groundcovers & Rosettes																		
Lyreleaf Sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Groundcover	12in	Native	Volunteer	Semi-Evergreen	April-May	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes			Yes		Poor	Fair	
Common Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Groundcover	6-12in	Native	Layering	Perennial	April-July	Part Shade	Moderate	Not picky				Yes		Great	Good	Elsewhere
Frogfruit	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Groundcover	6in	Native	Layering	Evergreen	April-Sept.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moderate-Moist	Not picky			Moderate		Yes	Great	Great	Multiple
St. Augustine Grass	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	Groundcover	6-12in	Native-ish	Layering	Perennial	April-Sept.	Part-Full Shade	Moderate-Moist	Not picky			Moderate	Yes	Yes	None	Poor	Multiple
Poorjoe	<i>Hexasepalum teres</i>	Groundcover	6-12in	Native	Layering	Annual	July-Sept.	Full Sun	Dry	Well-drained	Yes					Good	Fair	
Hairy Elephant's-foot	<i>Elephantopus tomentosus</i>	Groundcover	12in	Native	Volunteer	Semi-Evergreen	Aug.-Sept.	Part-Full Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes			Yes		Great	Great	
Narrowleaf Silkgrass	<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	Groundcover	18-30in	Native	Clumper	Evergreen	Sept.-Oct.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry	Well-drained	Yes					Poor	Fair	
Vines																		
Coral Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Vine	120in	Native	Layering	Semi-Evergreen	March-June	Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes			Yes	Yes	Good	Good	Yes
Woolly Dutchman's Pipe	<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>	Vine	120in	Native	No	Perennial	April-May	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moderate-Moist	Well-drained						Poor	None	Yes
Yellow Passionflower	<i>Passiflora lutea</i>	Vine	84in	Native	No	Perennial	April-Aug.	Part-Full Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes			Yes		Poor	Good	Multiple
Carolina Milkvine	<i>Matelea carolinensis</i>	Vine	96in	Native	No	Perennial	May-June	Part Shade	Moderate-Moist	Well-drained				Yes		Poor	Poor	Yes
Anglepod	<i>Gonolobus suberosus</i>	Vine	96in	Native	No	Perennial	May-July	Part Shade	Moderate-Moist	Well-drained				Yes		Poor	Poor	Yes
Purple Passionflower	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Vine	72in	Native	Layering	Perennial	May-Aug.	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Well-drained						Fair	Excellent	Multiple
Gulf Coast Swallow-wort	<i>Pattalia palustris</i>	Vine	48in	Native	No	Perennial	May-Sept.	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Salt Marsh			Full			Fair	Fair	Multiple
Saltmarsh Morning-Glory	<i>Ipomoea sagittata</i>	Vine	84in	Native	No	Perennial	June-July	Full Sun	Moderate-Moist	Salt Marsh		Maybe	Moderate			Fair	Fair	
Butterfly Pea	<i>Centrosema virginianum</i>	Vine	36in	Native	Layering	Perennial	June-Sept.	Part Shade	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes			Edge		Fair	Fair	Multiple
Climbing Aster	<i>Ampelaster carolinianus</i>	Vine	120in	Native	No	Perennial	Oct.-Nov.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Moist-Wet	Rich & Damp		Yes				Good	Great	Yes
Shrubs & Trees																		
Moundlily Yucca	<i>Yucca gloriosa</i>	Shrub	18-48in	Native	No	Evergreen	Sporadic	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Dry Sands	Yes		Full		Yes	Poor	Poor	Yes
Sweetleaf	<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i>	Small Tree	6-15ft	Native	No	Evergreen	March	Part-Full Shade	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes			Yes		Good	Good	Yes
Devilwood	<i>Cartrema americana</i>	Small Tree	10-30ft	Native	No	Evergreen	March	Part-Full Shade	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes		Spray	Yes		Good	Great	
Sand Myrtle	<i>Kalmia buxifolia</i>	Shrub	18-30in	Native	Layering	Evergreen	March-April	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moist	Acidic, wet sand						Good	Good	
Wild Azalea	<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	Shrub	48-96in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	March-April	Part-Full Shade	Moderate-Moist	Rich & Damp		Yes		Yes		Good	Fair	
Chickasaw Plum	<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Shrub	60-120in	Native	Clumper	Perennial	March-April	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes					Good	Great	Multiple
Red Buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Shrub	36-96in	Native	No	Perennial	March-April	Part-Full Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes			Yes		Fair	Fair	
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Medium Tree	20-60ft	Native	Volunteer	Perennial	April	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes			Yes		Fair	Good	Multiple
Hercules-Club	<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	Small Tree	8-20ft	Native	No	Perennial	April-May	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained			Spray	Edge		Fair	Fair	Yes
Red Bay	<i>Persea borbonia</i>	Small Tree	10-25ft	Native	Volunteer	Evergreen	April-May	All	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes		Spray	Yes		Fair	Poor	Yes
Dwarf Palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	Shrub	30-60in	Native	Volunteer	Evergreen	April-June	Part-Full Shade	Moderate-Wet	Damp	Maybe	Yes	Light	Yes		Good	Great	
Stiff Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon rigidus</i>	Shrub	60-120in	Australia	No	Perennial	April-Oct.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes				Yes	Fair	Good	
Texas Lantana	<i>Lantana urticoides</i>	Shrub	24-60in	Southwest	Volunteer	Semi-Evergreen	April-Nov.	Full Sun	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes				Yes	Excellent	Great	
Swamp Bay	<i>Persea palustris</i>	Small Tree	6-25ft	Native	Volunteer	Evergreen	May	Part-Full Shade	Moderate-Wet	Acidic & Moist		Yes		Yes		Poor	Poor	Yes
Allegheny Chinquapin	<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Small Tree	8-20ft	Native	No	Perennial	May	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry	Well-drained	Yes			Edge	Maybe	Great	Excellent	
Southeastern Prickly-Pear	<i>Opuntia mesacantha</i>	Shrub	6-18in	Native	Layering	Evergreen	May-June	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes		Light	Edge	Maybe	Fair	Great	
Cabbage Palmetto	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Small Tree	10-25ft	Native	Volunteer	Evergreen	May-June	All	Moderate-Wet	Not Picky	Maybe	Maybe	Moderate	Yes	Yes	Great	Excellent	
Chaste Tree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Small Tree	10-25ft	South Europe	No	Evergreen	May-June	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moist	Well-drained	Yes				Yes	Fair	Good	
Abelia	<i>Abelia X grandiflora</i>	Shrub	48-72in	China	No	Evergreen	May-Oct.	Full Sun-Part Shade	Dry-Moderate	Well-drained	Yes				Yes	Good	Good	
Sea-Oxeye	<i>Borrchia frutescens</i>	Shrub	18-36in	Native	Aggressive	Evergreen	June-July	Full Sun	Moist	Salt Marsh			Full			Good	Great	
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Shrub	48-84in	Native	No	Perennial	June-July	Full Sun-Part Shade	Wet	Pond edge		Yes		Edge		Great	Great	