

Butterflies are intriguing

Butterflies appear incredibly fragile but are capable of extraordinary feats of endurance. Their exquisite colours and patterns are a warning to predators of their extreme toxicity. As caterpillars, they consume some of the most toxic plants known and use these toxins for their own defence. As pollinators, they are crucially important to the health of many of our native plants.

Butterflies have a few, simple needs. They must have both host plants for caterpillars to feed on, and nectar plants for the adults. If you plant the right food plants they will find them.

They like sunny spots, sheltered from the wind, with flat rocks to rest and sun themselves.

Butterflies obtain water and salts by 'puddling' or sucking them up from moist soil. You can create a puddling site by burying a plastic container filled with coarse sand and topping it up with water from time to time.

This brochure is by no means a complete list of butterfly plants. It deals only with some of the butterflies, which visit gardens in the Northern Rivers district of NSW, and use the nectar and leaves of local rainforest plants as food. There are many other plants, both exotic and native, which can attract butterflies to feed in your garden. The references listed on the back of this brochure provide more information on these fascinating insects.



For more complete and detailed information we recommend the following references

Jordan, F. & Schwencke, H. 2005, **Create more butterflies**, Earthling Enterprises, Brisbane.
www.earthling.com.au

Clyne, D. 2000, **Attracting butterflies to your garden**, New Holland Publishers, Sydney.

Braby, M.F. 2004, **The complete field guide to butterflies of Australia**, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood Vic.

Braby, M.F. 2000, **Butterflies of Australia – their identification, biology and distribution 2 vol's**, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood Vic.
www.publish.csiro.au

Common I.F.B. & Waterhouse D.F. 1982, **Butterflies of Australia**, Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

What Butterfly is that?

http://users.sa.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/but_ID1.htm

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Attracting Butterflies to Your Rainforest Garden



Dr Don Sands

Richmond Birdwing Butterfly



With a little planning, it is possible to attract butterflies to any garden

Birdwing Butterfly Vine *Pararistolochia*

praevenosa

Form: Large vine

Butterflies: Richmond Birdwing Butterfly

*This is the host for the iconic Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. It is endangered because of habitat loss and the introduction the exotic Dutchman's Pipe *Aristolochia elegans* which is poisonous to its caterpillars.*

Brush Caper Berry *Capparis arborea*

Form: Shrub or Small tree

Butterflies: Caper White, Caper Gull and three species of Pearl Whites

Widely distributed in Dry and Subtropical Rainforest. Very hardy. Prune into a neat shrub.

Brush Senna *Senna acclinis*

Form: Shrub to 3 m

Butterflies: Small Grass-yellow and Yellow Migrant

This endangered shrub grows on the edges of Subtropical and Dry Rainforests.



Coffee Bush *Breynia oblongifolia*

Form: Shrub to 4.0m

Butterflies: Large Grass-yellow

A common, hardy shrub of all types of rainforest.

Corky Milk Vine *Secamone elliptica*

Form: Vine

Butterflies: Common Crow, Blue tiger

A large woody climber. Hardy.

Finger Lime *Citrus australasica*

Form: Shrub

Butterflies: Orchard Swallowtail, Dainty

Swallowtail and Fuscous Swallowtail

Found in Dry and Subtropical Rainforests; an excellent bushfood now grown commercially.

Native or Arrow-leafed Violet *Viola*

betonicifolia

Form: Herb to 20 cm

Butterflies: Australian Fritillary Butterfly, aka Laced Fritillary

An attractive groundcover with edible flowers. Prefers a sheltered shady position.

Native Mulberry *Pipturus argenteus*

Form: Shrub or small tree

Butterflies: Yellow Admiral, Speckled Line-blue, Jezebel Nymph and Varied Eggfly.

A hardy plant found in Dry and Subtropical Rainforest, particularly in regrowth.

Pastel Flower *Pseuderanthemum variabile*

Form: Small Herb

Butterflies: Leafwing, Blue Argus, and Varied, Danaid and Blue-banded Eggflies

A shade loving groundcover of rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest. It has small purple flowers.

Red Ash *Alphitonia excelsa*

Form: Large Tree

Butterflies: Small Green-banded Blue, Indigo Flash

A hardy, fast growing pioneer tree found on the edges of rainforests and in eucalypt forests. It is also a bird attractant and cabinet timber.

Rough Saw-sedge *Gahnia clarkei*

Form: Sedge to 2.0m tall

Butterflies: Swordgrass Brown

A clumping, perennial sedge with striking bright red seeds. Prefers partial shade

Smooth Wilkiea *Wilkiea austroqueenslandica*

Form: Shrub to 4.0 m

Butterflies: Regent Skipper Butterfly

An understory plant of Subtropical Rainforest

Wattles *Acacia spp.*

Form: Shrubs to large trees

Butterflies: Tailed Emperor, Common Grass Yellow, Common Imperial blue, Fiery Jewel and other Blues.

Hardy but many short lived

Yellow Tulip *Drypetes delplanchei*

Form: Small to medium sized tree

Butterflies: Common Albatross

Found in most rainforest types. Drought hardy.

Zigzag Vine *Melodorum leichhardtii*

Form: Vine

Butterflies: Four-barred Swordtail, Pale Triangle and Eastern Dusk Flat.

Only known food plant for the Four-barred Swordtail. Although a vine, it can be pruned to keep small and shrubby