

A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Introduction

Greetings and welcome fellow butterfly and pollinator enthusiasts! I am assuming that you're here because you're creating a new pollinator garden, or are looking to expand your existing planted spaces. Perhaps you want to formalize your space into the category of Butterfly Waystation; a laudable achievement!

Hey, I'm there with you, which is why I assembled this visual guide. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, especially when it comes to garden planning and shopping!

Truth be told, I'm not a lepidopterist or botanist. The content of this guide is an assemblage of information gathered from my betters - please see Contributors and Resources for a list of names and links. And with that, a big thank you to all who have labored to make this information available to us Low Desert Gardeners.

This guide is organized as follows:

- A table of some common low desert butterflies and moths with photos of various life stages: butterfly/moth, caterpillar, egg and pupa. Notice the Score column - give yourself a point (or 10!) for every species you find in your garden!
- Images of Some Pests and Beneficials that depict various life stages - before removing a new arrival in your garden, make sure it's not on the beneficial list - some larval stage beneficials look like killing machines (and they kind of are :-)
- Host Plant Images organized by scientific name. You will notice a larger focus on host plants (than nectar plants) since butterflies and moths tend to be much more selective about hosts, and many host plants also serve as nectar plants for multiple pollinators. Peruse the images and see what strikes your fancy! Think of the host plants as the pollinator framework of your garden - many of these selections aren't the most colorful or striking, but they play a vital role in the lifecycle of butterflies and moths. For extra pop, look to the Nectar plants for your garden.
- Host Plants Listed by common name - this can double as a shopping list - print it out and highlight your wishlist items!
- Nectar Plant Images. Some of these plants are also host plants, a double-bonus! Use the nectar plants to fill out your garden with form, texture and color.
- Nectar Plants Listed by common name - this can double as a shopping list - print it out and highlight your wishlist items!
- Contributors and Resources - you may want to actually start here to learn more about pollinator gardens from the Maricopa Native Seed Library and some AZ nurseries!

Throughout this guide, underlined text is hyperlinked to web pages (or bookmarks in this document) that provide additional details. Feel free to send me comments or suggestions at my email address listed in the footer.




I welcome photos of plants, butterflies, moths, caterpillars and the like for consideration - please state that you give permission, free of charge, for me to include them in this guide, TIA!

Cheers!




George Roark

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Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Alphabetical by Common Name	Comments	Score
 <p>Anise Swallowtail</p>	<p><u>ANISE SWALLOWTAIL</u> (<i>Papilio zelicaon</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Anise, Fennel, Celery, Parsley, Parsnip, etc. and also Chuchupate (<i>Ligusticum porteri</i>) and Yampas like Sierra Queen Anne's lace (<i>Perideridia parishi</i>)</p>	
 <p>Arizona Sister</p>	<p><u>ARIZONA SISTER</u> (<i>Adelpha eulalia</i>)</p> <p>Host - Oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp)</p> <p>Food: Water and mud, rotting fruit, rarely flowers</p>	
 <p>Black Swallowtail</p>	<p><u>BLACK SWALLOWTAIL</u> (<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Parsley family (like dill, celery, carrots, fennel, etc) and also Turpentine broom (<i>Thamnosma montana</i>)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from flowers including red clover, milkweed, and thistles</p>	




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 <p>Bordered Patch</p>	<p><u>BORDERED PATCH</u> (<i>Chlosyne lacinia</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - <u>Sunflowers</u> (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)</p> <p><u>Gaillardia</u> (<i>Gaillardia</i> spp)</p> <p><u>Mexican sunflower bush</u> (<i>Tithonia fruticosa</i>)</p> <p><u>Hairy wedelia</u> (<i>Wedelia hispida</i>)</p> <p><u>Ragweed</u> (<i>Ambrosia</i> spp)</p> <p>Food: Flower nectar</p>	
 <p>Cabbage White</p>	<p><u>CABBAGE WHITE</u> (<i>Pieris rapae</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - plants in the <u>Brassica</u> genus (cabbage, cruciferous vegetables, mustard plants) and according to Desert Survivors, southwest plants perennial <u>Rockcress</u> (<i>Arabis perennans</i>) and <u>Sanddune wallflower</u> (<i>Erysimum capitulum</i>)</p> <p>Food: Flower nectar from a very wide array of plants including mustards, dandelion, red clover, asters, and mints</p>	
 <p>Checkered White</p>	<p><u>CHECKERED WHITE</u> (<i>Pontia protodice</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - <u>Perennial rockcress</u> and plants in the <u>Brassica</u> genus</p> <p>Food: Flower nectar including hedge mustards, composites, and alfalfa</p>	




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 <p>Cloudless Sulphur</p>	<p><u>CLOUDLESS SULPHUR</u> (<i>Phoebis sennae</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Sennas, like Desert senna (<i>Senna covesii</i>) in the low desert</p> <p>Food: Nectar from many different flowers with long tubes including cordia, bougainvillea, cardinal flower, hibiscus, lantana, and wild morning glory</p>	
 <p>Common Buckeye</p>	<p><u>COMMON BUCKEYE</u> (<i>Junonia coenia</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Ruellia (<i>Ruellia</i> spp)</p> <p>Monkey flower (<i>Mimulus</i> spp) Snapdragon vine (<i>Maurandya antirrhiniflora</i>)</p> <p>Whitewhooly twinip (<i>Stemodia durantifolia</i>)</p> <p>Food: Favorite nectar sources are composites including aster, chickory, gumweed, knapweed, and tickseed sunflower. Dogbane, peppermint, and other flowers are also visited</p>	
 <p>EMPRESSLEILIA</p>	<p><u>EMPRESSLEILIA</u> (<i>Asterocampa leilia</i>)</p> <p>Host - Desert hackberry (<i>Celtis pallida</i>)</p> <p>Food: Sap and dung, occasionally flower nectar</p>	




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	<p><u>Fiery Skipper</u> <i>Hylephila phyleus</i> on <i>Dalea pulchra</i> (Indigo Bush)</p> <p>Hosts - grasses</p> <p>Food: Nectar from flowers of a variety of plants including sweet pepperbush, swamp milkweed, asters, sneezeweed, knapweed, ironweed, and thistles.</p>	
	<p><u>GIANT SWALLOWTAIL</u> (<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Rutaceae family, including citrus (citrus spp), Hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), and Rue (<i>Ruta graveolens</i>)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from lantana, azalea, bougainvillea, bouncing Bet, dame's rocket, goldenrod, Japanese honeysuckle, and swamp milkweed</p>	
	<p><u>GRAY HAIRSTREAK</u> (<i>Strymon melinus</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Globemallow (<i>Sphaeralcea</i> spp) Desert lavender (<i>Hyptis emoryi</i>) Desert cotton (<i>Gossypium thurberi</i>) Kidneywood (<i>Eysenhardtia</i> spp) Lingum vitae (<i>Guaiacum</i> spp)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from many flower species including dogbane, milkweed, mint, winter cress, goldenrod, tick trefoil, and white sweet clover</p>	




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 <p style="text-align: center;">Gulf Fritillary</p>	<p><u>GULF FRITILLARY</u> (<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>)</p> <p>Host - Passionflower (<i>Passiflora</i> spp)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from lantana, shepherd's needle, cordias, composites, and others</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Marine Blue</p>	<p><u>MARINE BLUE</u> (<i>Leptotes marina</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Mesquite (<i>Prosopis</i> spp) Fairy duster (<i>calliandra</i> spp) Kidneywood (<i>Eysenhardtia</i> spp) Leadwort/white plumbago (<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>) Wright's milkpea (<i>Galactia wrightii</i>) Tenaza (<i>Havardia pallens</i>)</p> <p>Food: Flower nectar</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Monarch</p>	<p><u>MONARCH</u> (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - <i>Asclepias</i> spp, DBG recommends: White stem milkweed (<i>Asclepias albicans</i>) Arizona milkweed (<i>Asclepias angustifolia</i>) Antelope horns milkweed (<i>Asclepias asperula</i>) Giant Sand milkweed (<i>Asclepias erosa</i>) Desert milkweed (<i>Asclepias subulata</i>) Pineneedle milkweed (<i>Asclepias linaria</i>)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from all milkweeds. Early in the season before milkweeds bloom, Monarchs visit a variety of flowers including dogbane, lilac, red clover, lantana, and thistles. In the fall adults visit composites including goldenrods, blazing stars, ironweed, and tickseed sunflower</p>	



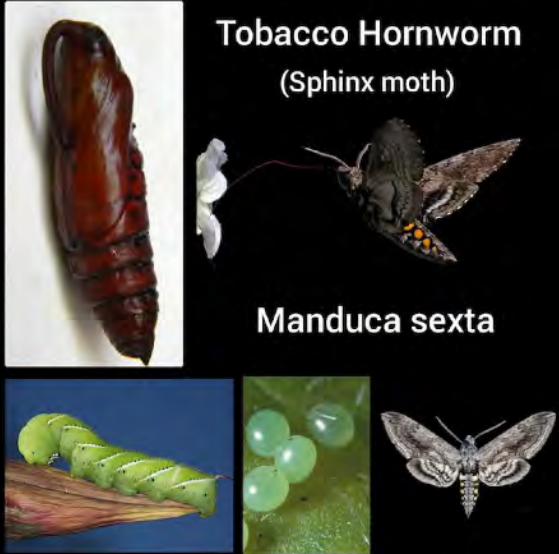
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 <p style="text-align: center;">Mourning Cloak</p>	<p><u>MOURNING CLOAK</u> (<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Canyon hackleberry (<i>Celtis reticulata</i>) New Mexico hops (<i>Humulus lupulus</i> var. <i>neomexicanus</i>) Willow spp American Elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>) Cottonwood (<i>Populus deltoides</i>)</p> <p>Food: Mourning Cloaks prefer tree sap, especially that of oaks. They walk down the trunk to the sap and feed head downward. They will also feed on rotting fruit, and only occasionally on flower nectar</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Painted Lady</p>	<p><u>PAINTED LADY</u> (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolia</i>), Western mugwort (<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>), Globe mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>), Desert cotton (<i>Gossypium thurberi</i>), New Mexico thistle (<i>Cirsium neomexicanum</i>), Mexican sunflower bush (<i>Tithonia fruticosa</i>), Brittlebush (<i>Encelia farinosa</i>), Hollyhock (<i>Alcea rosea</i>) Malva parviflora (<u>cheeseweed</u> mallow-<i>invasive species</i>)</p> <p>Food: The Painted Lady prefers nectar from composites 3-6 feet high, especially thistles; also aster, cosmos, blazing star, ironweed, and joe-pye weed. Flowers from other families that are visited include red clover, buttonbush, privet, and milkweeds</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Pearl Crescent</p>	<p><u>PEARL CRESCENT</u> (<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Several species of smooth-leaved true <u>Asters</u></p> <p>Food: Nectar from a great variety of flowers including dogbane, swamp milkweed, shepherd's needle, asters, and winter cress</p>	


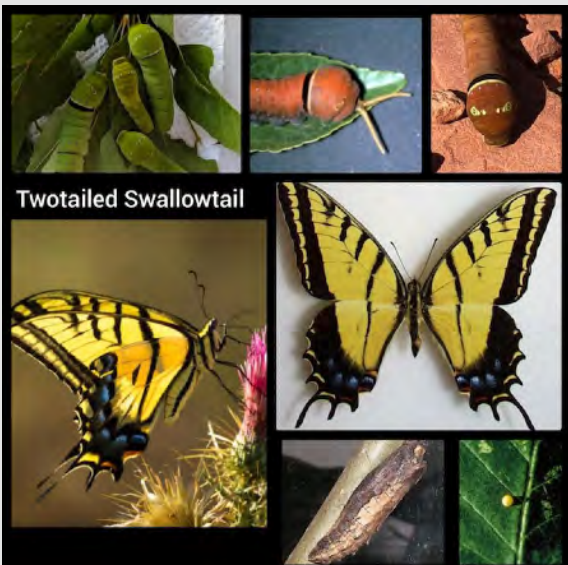

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 <p style="text-align: center; background-color: white; color: black; padding: 2px;">Pipevine Swallowtail</p>	<p><u>PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL</u> (<i>Battus philenor</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Pipevine plants Watson's Dutchman pipevine (<i>Aristolochia watsonii</i>)</p> <p>Food: Solely nectar from flowers including thistles (<i>Cirsium</i> species), bergamot, lilac, viper's bugloss, common azaleas, phlox, teasel, azaleas, dame's-rocket, lantana, petunias, verbenas, lupines, yellow star thistle, California buckeye, yerba santa, brodiaeas, and gilies</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center; background-color: white; color: black; padding: 2px;">Queen</p>	<p><u>QUEEN</u> (<i>Danaus gilippus</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> spp) Milkweed vine (<i>Matelea</i> spp) Climbing milkweed vine (<i>Sarcostemma cyanchooides</i>)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from flowers including milkweeds, fogfruit, and shepherd's needle</p>	
 <p style="text-align: center; background-color: white; color: black; padding: 2px;">Reakirt's Blue</p>	<p><u>REAKIRT'S BLUE</u> (<i>Echinargus isola</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Many plants in the pea family (Fabaceae) including yellow sweet clover (<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>), Acacia spp , rattleweed (<i>Astragalus</i>), Mesquite (<i>Prosopis</i> spp), Dalea spp, mimosa (<i>Albizia</i>), and indigo (<i>Indigofera</i>) species</p> <p>Food: Flower nectar from a variety of herbs including spearmint and white sweet clover</p>	


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 <p>RED ADMIRAL</p>	<p><u>RED ADMIRAL (Vanessa atalanta)</u></p> <p>Hosts - <u>Nettles</u> and <u>Pellitories</u></p> <p>Food: Red Admirals prefer sap flows on trees, fermenting fruit, and bird droppings; visiting flowers only when these are not available. Then they will nectar at common milkweed, red clover, aster, and alfalfa, among others</p>	
 <p>Red-spotted Admiral</p>	<p><u>RED-SPOTTED ADMIRAL (Limenitis arthemis)</u></p> <p>Hosts - Leaves of many species of trees and shrubs including wild cherry (<u>Prunus</u>), Aspen, Poplar, Cottonwood (<u>Populus</u>), Oaks (<u>Quercus</u>), Hawthorn (<u>Crataegus</u>), Deerberry (<u>Vaccinium stamineum</u>), Birch (<u>Betula</u>), Willows (<u>Salix</u>), Basswood (<u>Tilia</u>), and Shadbush (<u>Amelanchier</u>) and Chokeberry</p> <p>Food: Sap flows, rotting fruit, carrion, dung, and occasionally nectar from small white flowers including spiraea, privet, and viburnum. White Admirals also sip aphid honeydew</p>	
 <p>Tobacco Hornworm (Sphinx moth)</p> <p>Manduca sexta</p>	<p><u>SPHINX MOTHS, FAMILY SPHINGIDAE</u></p> <p><u>SPHINX MOTH (Manduca sexta)</u></p> <p>Hosts - Plants in the <u>Solanaceae</u> family which includes Tomatoes, tobacco, peppers, eggplant, potatoes, datura, and petunias to list some. Very similar to tomato hornworms (<u>Manduca quinquemaculata</u>)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from flowers including Japanese honeysuckle (<u>Lonicera japonica</u>), moonflower (<u>Calonyction aculeata</u>), and petunia (<u>Petunia hybrida</u>)</p>	

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 <p>Texan Crescent</p>	<p><u>TEXAS CRESCENT</u> (<i>Anthanassa texana</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Justicia spp (<i>Chuparosa</i>, <i>Mexican honeysuckle</i>, etc), Arizona foldwing (<i>Dicliptera resupinata</i>), Arizona wrightwort (<i>Carlowrightia arizonica</i>) Acanthus family (<i>Ruellia</i>, <i>Jacobina</i>, <i>Beloperone</i>, and <i>Siphonoglossa</i>)</p> <p>Food: Flower nectar</p>	
 <p>Twotailed Swallowtail</p>	<p><u>TWO-TAILED SWALLOWTAIL</u> (<i>Papilio multicaudata</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Arizona ash (<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>) Hop tree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>) Arizona rosewood (<i>Vauquelinia californica</i>)</p> <p>Food: Nectar from thistles, milkweeds, California buckeye, lilac, and many others</p>	
 <p>VARIEGATED FRITILLARY</p>	<p><u>VARIEGATED FRITILLARY</u> (<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - Passionflower (<i>Passiflora</i> spp), Blue flax (<i>Linum lewisii</i>), plants in the <i>Hybanthus</i> genus, and plants in the <i>Metastelma</i> genus</p> <p>Food: Nectar from several plant species including butterflyweed, common milkweed, dogbane, peppermint, red clover, swamp milkweed, and tickseed sunflower</p>	

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	<p><u>WEST COAST LADY</u> (<i>Vanessa annabella</i>)</p> <p>Hosts - <u>Mallows</u>, including globe mallow (<u>Sphaeralcea</u> spp)</p> <p>Food: Flower nectar</p>	

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<p>Other Butterflies and Moths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>American snout: <i>Libytheana carinenta</i></u> • <u>Arizona checkerspot: <i>Dymasia dymas</i></u> • • <u>Arizona giant skipper: <i>Agathymus aryxna</i></u> • <u>Arizona powdered skipper: <i>Systasea zampa</i></u> • <u>Calleta silkmoth: <i>Eupackardia calleta</i></u> • • • <u>Ceraunus blue: <i>Hemiargus ceraunus</i></u> • • • <u>Common checkered skipper: <i>Pyrgus communis</i></u> • • • • <u>Common streaky skipper: <i>Celotes nessus</i></u> • • <u>Crambid moth: Family Crambidae</u> • <u>Elada checkerspot: <i>Texola elada</i></u> • • <u>Fine-lined sallow moth: <i>Catabena lineolata</i></u> • <u>Geometric moth: Family Geometridae</u> • <u>Hackberry emperor: <i>Asterocampa celtis</i></u> • • <u>Hualapai buckmoth: <i>Hemileuca hualapai</i></u> • <u>Hubbard's small silkmoth: <i>Sphingicampa hubbardi</i></u> • • <u>Juno buckmoth: <i>Hemileuca juno</i></u> • <u>Laviana white skipper: <i>Heliopetes laviana</i></u> • • <u>Leda ministreak: <i>Ministrymon leda</i></u> • • <u>Mesquite clearwing moth</u> • <u>Mexican agapema silkmoth: <i>Agapema anona</i></u> • • <u>Mexican yellow: <i>Eurema mexicana</i></u> • <u>Milkweed tussock tiger moth: <i>Euchaetes egle</i></u> • <u>Mimosa yellow: <i>Pyrisitia nise</i></u> • <u>Mohave sooty wing: <i>Hesperopsis libya</i></u> • • <u>Northern white skipper: <i>Heliopetes ericetorum</i></u> • • <u>Owlet moths</u> • <u>Palmer's metalmark: <i>Apodemia palmeri</i></u> • • <u>Randa's eyed silk moth: <i>Automeris randa</i></u> • <u>Saltbush sooty wing: <i>Hesperopsis alpheus</i></u> 	<p>If you have spotted a caterpillar on a plant in your yard, but didn't see it in the previous photos, you may find it below. Look at the HOSTS list; if one matches that of your caterpillar, click the hyperlink in Common Name to investigate further.</p> <p>HOSTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several species of hackberry (<i>Celtis</i>). • Hairy tubetongue (<i>Siphonoglossa pilosella</i>) in the acanthus family • Palmer's agave (<i>Agave palmeri</i>) • Possibly various plants in the mallow family (<i>Malvaceae</i>) • Ceniza (<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus</i>), Mexican jumping bean (<i>Sapium biloculare</i>), and ocotillo (<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>) • A variety of woody legumes including partridge pea (<i>Cassia brachiata</i>), mesquite (<i>Prosopis</i> species), and rosary pea (<i>Abrus precatorius</i>) • Several plants in the mallow family (<i>Malvaceae</i>) including globemallows (<i>Sphaeralcea</i>), mallow (<i>Malva</i>), hollyhock (<i>Althaea</i>), alkali mallows (<i>Sida</i>), velvet-leaf (<i>Abutilon</i>), and poppy mallow (<i>Callirhoe</i>) • Several mallows including globemallows (<i>Sphaeralcea</i>) and violet sida (<i>Sida filipes</i>) • • Hairy tubetongue (<i>Siphonoglossa pilosella</i>) in Texas, yellow composites in Mexico • • • Various hackberries (<i>Celtis</i> species) and sugarberry (<i>Celtis laevigata</i>) • Grama (<i>Bouteloua</i>) and other grasses • Wright's acacia (<i>Acacia wrightii</i>), catclaw acacia (<i>A. greggii</i>), and honey mesquite (<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> var. <i>juliflora</i>) • Various mesquite (<i>Prosopis</i>) species • Various mallows including globemallows (<i>Sphaeralcea</i>), Sidas (<i>Sida</i>), and velvet-leaf (<i>Abutilon</i>) • Mesquite trees (<i>Prosopis</i> species) in the pea family (<i>Fabaceae</i>) • • Knife-leaf condalia (<i>Condalia spathulata</i>), green snakewood (<i>Condalia viridis</i>), and javelina bush (<i>Microrhamnus ericoides</i>) • Acacia and <i>Diphysa</i> in the pea family (<i>Fabaceae</i>) • Milkweeds • Sensitive plant (<i>Mimosa pudica</i>) in the pea family (<i>Fabaceae</i>) • Shadscale (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>) in the goosefoot family (<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>) • Various mallows including globemallows (<i>Sphaeralcea</i>), hollyhock (<i>Althaea</i>), and mallow (<i>Malva</i>) • • Screwbean mesquite (<i>Prosopis pubescens</i>) and honey mesquite (<i>P. glandulosa</i> var. <i>torreyana</i>) • Spiny hackberry (<i>Celtis pallida</i>) and oaks (<i>Quercus</i>) • Shadscale (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>) and quail brush (<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>) in the goosefoot family (<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>) 	

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Alphabetical by Common Name	Comments	Score
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sleepy orange: <i>Abaeis nicippe</i></u> • <u>Tawny emperor: <i>Asterocampa clyton</i></u> • • <u>Theona checkerspot: <i>Chlosyne theona</i></u> • • <u>Tiny checkerspot: <i>Dymasia dymas</i></u> • • <u>Tortrix moth: <i>Choristoneura conflictana</i></u> • • <u>Tricolor buckmoth: <i>Hemileuca tricolor</i></u> • • <u>Ursine giant skipper: <i>Megathymus ursus</i></u> • • • <u>Verbena moth: <i>Crambodes talidiformis</i></u> • <u>Veined Ctenucha moth: <i>Ctenucha venosa</i></u> • <u>Western pygmy blue: <i>Brephidium exilis</i></u> • • <u>Yucca giant skipper: <i>Megathymus yuccae</i></u> • • • <u>Yucca moth: <i>Tegeticula yuccasella</i></u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassia species in the pea family (Fabaceae) • Trees of the elm family including <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>, <i>C. tenuifolia</i>, <i>C. laevigata</i>, <i>C. lindheimeri</i>, and <i>C. reticulata</i> • Ceniza blanca (<i>Leucophyllum texanum</i> and <i>L. frutescens</i>) in Texas, paintbrush (<i>Castilleja</i> species) in Arizona • Hairy tubetongue (<i>Siphonoglossa pilosella</i>) in the acanthus family • Main host is trembling aspen but will also feed on other associated broad-leaved trees • Littleleaf paloverde (<i>Cercidium microphyllum</i>), mesquite (<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>), and catclaw acacia (<i>Acacia greggii</i>) • Schott's yucca (<i>Yucca schottii</i>), Arizona yucca (<i>Y. arizonica</i>), banana yucca (<i>Y. baccata</i>), and Torrey's yucca (<i>Y. torreyi</i>) • • • Pigweed (<i>Chenopodium album</i>), saltbush species (<i>Atriplex</i>), and others in the goosefoot family (<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>) • Various yuccas including bear grass (<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>), Small's yucca (<i>Y. smalliana</i>), Spanish dagger (<i>Y. gloriosa</i>), (<i>Y. elata</i>), and (<i>Y. arizonica</i>) and Spanish bayonet (<i>Y. aloifolia</i>) • 	

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A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Recognizing Pests and Beneficials

Recognizing Pests and Beneficials

Pests

Insect Eggs



Squash Bugs Stink Bugs Leaf-footed Bugs Three-lined Potato Beetle

Beneficials

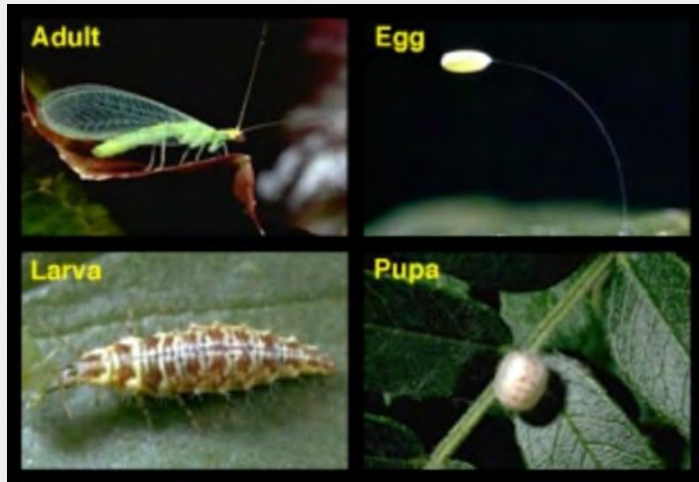


Lady Beetles (aka Ladybugs) Lacewings Assassin Bugs Praying Mantis Praying Mantis

Butterflies



Gulf Fritillary (on Passion Vine) Giant Swallowtail (on Citrus) Monarch (on Milkweed) Black Swallowtail (on Dill?)



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Recognizing Pests and Beneficials



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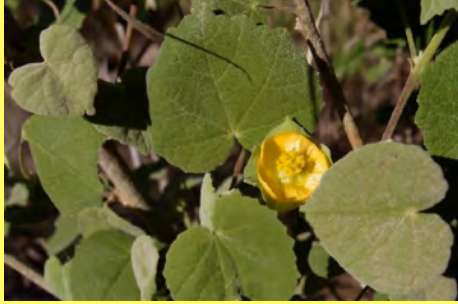
A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Host Plant Images

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Abutilon abutiloides (Shrubby Indian mallow)
NSL



Abutilon incanum (Pelatazo) NSL



Abutilon palmeri (Indian Mallow) NSL



Acacia spp DBG



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)



Adenophyllum porophylloides (San Felipe dogweed) NSL



Golden-flowered Agave (*Agave chrysantha*)
DBG NSL



Desert Agave (*Agave deserti*) DBG NSL



Palmer's Agave (*Agave palmeri*) DBG NSL



Parry's Agave (*Agave parryi*) DBG NSL



Schott's Agave (*Agave schottii*) DBG NSL



Toumey's Agave (*Agave toumeyana*) DBG NSL



David Thornburg

A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Utah Agave (*Agave utahensis*) DBG NSL



Butterfly Mist (*Ageratum corymbosum*)
DBG



Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*) NSL



Aloysia wrightii (Beebrush) NSL



Ragweed (*Ambrosia* spp)



False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) DBG, NSL



Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) DBG



Anethum graveolens (Dill) NSL



Desert Honeysuckle (*Anisacanthus thurberi*)
DBG NSL



Rockcress (*Arabis perennans*)



Purple Threeawn (*Aristida purpurea*) DBG
NSL



Watson's Dutchman pipevine (*Aristolochia watsonii*) DBG, NSL



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

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Western mugwort (*Artemisia ludoviciana*)



White stem milkweed (*Asclepias albicans*)
DBG, NSL



Arizona milkweed (*Asclepias angustifolia*)
DBG, NSL



Antelope horns milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*)
DBG



Blood Flower - *Asclepias curassavica* DBG



Giant Sand milkweed (*Asclepias erosa*) DBG



Pine-leaf Milkweed (*Asclepias linaria*) DBG,
NSL



***Asclepias nyctaginifolia* (Mojave milkweed)**
NSL



Desert Milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*) DBG
NSL



Asters DBG



Saltbushes (*Atriplex* spp.) DBG NSL



***Baccharis salicifolia* (Seep willow)** NSL



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

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Baccharis sarothroides (Desert broom) NSL



Bahia absinthifolia (Desert bahia) NSL



Desert Marigold (Baileya multiradiata) NSL



Sweetbush (Bebbia juncea) DBG, NSL



Bidens aurea (Arizona beggarticks) NSL



Boechera perennans, Perennial Rockcress NSL



Sideoats Grama (Bouteloua curtipendula) DBG NSL



Blue Grama Grass - Bouteloua gracilis DBG



Fairy duster (calliandra spp) DBG NSL



Arizona wrightwort (Carlowrightia arizonica) NSL



Ceanothus greggii (Desert ceanothus) NSL



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Desert hackberry (*Celtis pallida*) DBG NSL



Canyon hackleberry (*Celtis reticulata*) DBG



Mexican Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *mexicana*) DBG



Chilopsis linearis* subsp. *arcuata (Native Desert Willow) NSL



New Mexico thistle (*Cirsium neomexicanum*) NSL



Citrus NSL



Clematis drummondii (Old man's beard) NSL



Gregg's Mist Flower - *Conoclinium greggii* NSL



***Dalea* spp** DBG NSL



Datura NSL



Daucus carota (Carrot) NSL



Daucus pusillus (Wild carrot) NSL



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

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Desmanthus cooleyi (Cooley bundleflower)
NSL



Arizona Foldwing (**Dicliptera resupinata**)
DBG NSL



Fall false tansy aster (**Dieteria asteroides** var **glandulosa**) NSL



Fall false tansy aster, by ezpixels. BY-NC

Brittlebush (**Encelia** spp) DBG



Hummingbird Trumpet (**Epilobium canum**) DBG



Rabbit Brush (**Ericameria nauseosus** syn. **Chrysothamnus nauseosus**) DBG



©Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

Fleabane (**Erigeron divergens**) NSL



Eriogonum fasciculata v. **polifolium** (Eastern Mohave buckwheat) NSL



Eriogonum wrightii (Wright's buckwheat)
NSL



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Flattop & Wright's [Buckwheat](#) DBG



Sanddune wallflower ([Erysimum capitalum](#))



Kidneywood ([Eysenhardtia](#) spp) DBG NSL



[Foeniculum vulgare](#) (Fennel) NSL



[Fouquieria splendens](#) (Ocotillo) NSL



Ash ([Fraxinus](#) spp) NSL



[Funastrum cynanchoides](#) ssp. [heterophyllum](#)
(Hartweg's twinevine) NSL



[Gaillardia](#) spp NSL



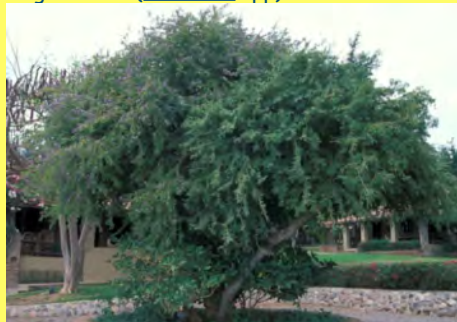
Wright's milkpea ([Galactia wrightii](#))



Desert cotton ([Gossypium thurberi](#)) DBG NSL



Lingum vitae ([Guaiacum](#) spp) DBG



Tenaza ([Havardia pallens](#))



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp) NSL



Herissantia crispa (Bladderpod) NSL



Hibiscus biseptus (Arizona Rosemallow) NSL



Hibiscus cardiophyllus (Heart Leaved hibiscus) NSL



Hibiscus denudatus (Paleface hibiscus) NSL



Desert Rosemallow (*Hibiscus coulteri*) DBG NSL



Hollyhocks



New Mexico hops (*Humulus lupulus* var. *neomexicanus*)



Desert lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*) NSL



Indigo (*Indigofera* spp)



Janusia gracilis (Slender janusia) NSL



***Justicia* spp** DBG NSL



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Larrea tridentata (Creosote) NSL



Leucophyllum spp DBG NSL



Ligusticum Porteri, Loveroot



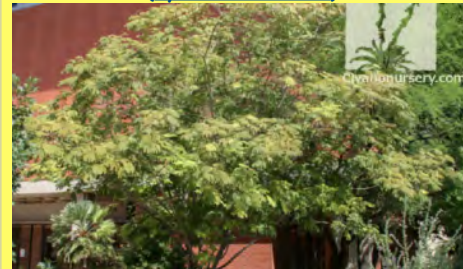
Deer Vetch (*Lotus rigidus*) DBG NSL



Lycium spp (Wolfberry) NSL



Desert Fern (*Lysiloma watsonii*) DBG



Machaeranthera tanacetifolia (Tahoka daisy) NSL



Mallows DBG



Texas Tuberose (*Manfreda maculosa*) DBG



Milkweed vine (*Matelea* spp)



Snapdragon vine (*Maurandya antirrhiniflora*) NSL



Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus officinalis*)



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

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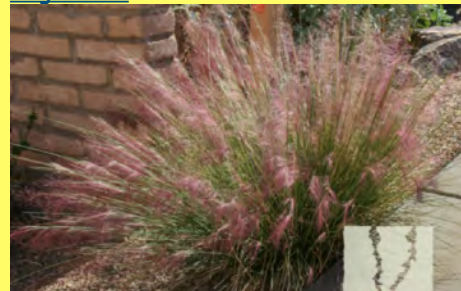
Monkey flower (*Mimulus* spp)



Mirabilis multiflora (Colorado Four O'clock) NSL



Regal Mist Grass - *Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist' DBG



El Toro Bull Grass - *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* 'El Toro'



Lindheimer's Muhly - *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*



Nashville Grass - *Muhlenbergia rigida* 'Nashville'



Nettles NSL



Oenothera caespitosa (White Evening Primrose, Tufted Evening Primrose) NSL



Comanche Campfire Primrose - *Oenothera macrocarpa* 'Comanche Campfire' NSL



Oenothera speciosa 'Siskiyou' (Mexican Evening Primrose) NSL



Ironwood (*Olneya tesota*) DBG



Passionvines (*Passiflora* spp) DBG



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: [DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden](#), [NSL Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Penstemons [DBG](#)



Perideridia parishii, Sierra Queen Anne's Lace



Desert Plumbago (*Plumbago scandens*) [DBG](#)



Leadwort/white plumbago (*Plumbago zeylanica*)



Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)



Porophyllum gracile (*Odora*) [NSL](#)



Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp) [DBG](#)



Prunus spp (Cherry, plum, peach, etc)



Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*)



Oaks (*Quercus* spp)



Ruellia (*Ruellia* spp) [DBG](#) [NSL](#)



Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Willows (*Salix* spp)



***Sambucus mexicana* (Mexican Elderberry)**
NSL



Climbing milkweed vine (*Sarcostemma cyanchoides*)



Desert Senna (*Senna covesii*) DBG



***Senna* spp** DBG



Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) DBG



Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*) DBG



Whitewoolly twinip (*Stemodia durantifolia*)



***Thamnosma montana*, Turpentinebroom** DBG



***Thymophylla pentachaeta* (Paralenna)** NSL



Mexican sunflower bush (*Tithonia fruticosa*)



American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

HOST Plants (alphabetical by scientific name)

(bold = readily available, blue = recommended: DBG Phx Desert Botanical Garden, NSL [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#))

Arizona rosewood (*Vauquelinia californica*)
NSL



Verbesina encelioides (Cowpen daisy) NSL



*Parish Goldeneye (*Viguiera parishii*) DBG*



Hairy wedelia (*Wedelia hispida*)



Arizona Yucca (*Yucca arizonica*) DBG



Banana Yucca (*Yucca baccata*) DBG



Soaptree Yucca (*Yucca elata*) DBG



*Schott's Yucca (*Yucca schottii*)* DBG



Ziziphus obtusifolia (Graythorn) NSL



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A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Host Plant List by Common Name

Host Plant Common Name	Scientific Name
Bladderpod NSL	Herissantia crispa
Colorado Four O'clock NSL	Mirabilis multiflora
Cowpen daisy NSL	Verbesina encelioides
Creosote NSL	Larrea tridentata
Dill NSL	Anethum graveolens
Eastern Mohave buckwheat NSL	Eriogonum fasciculata v. polifolium
Fennel NSL	Foeniculum vulgare
Graythorn NSL	Ziziphus obtusifolia
Hartweg's twinevine NSL	Funastrum cynanchoides ssp. heterophyllum
Heart Leaved hibiscus NSL	Hibiscus cardiophyllus
Mexican Elderberry NSL	Sambucus mexicana
Ocotillo NSL	Fouquieria splendens
Odora NSL	Porophyllum gracile
Paleface hibiscus NSL	Hibiscus denudatus
Paralenna NSL	Thymophylla pentachaeta
Slender janusia NSL	Janusia gracilis
Tahoka daisy NSL	Machaeranthera tanacetifolia
Wright's buckwheat NSL	Eriogonum wrightii
Acacia spp DBG	Acacia spp
American Elm	Ulmus americana
Antelope horns milkweed DBG	Asclepias asperula
Arizona beggarticks NSL	Bidens aurea
Arizona Foldwing DBG NSL	Dicliptera resupinata
Arizona milkweed DBG, NSL	Asclepias angustifolia
Arizona Rosemallow NSL	Hibiscus biseptus
Arizona rosewood NSL	Vauquelinia californica
Arizona wrightwort NSL	Carlowrightia arizonica
Arizona Yucca DBG	Yucca arizonica
Ash NSL	Fraxinus spp
Asters DBG	Asters
Banana Yucca DBG	Yucca baccata
Beebrush NSL	Aloysia wrightii
Big Bluestem DBG	Andropogon gerardii
Blood Flower DBG	Asclepias curassavica

A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Host Plant Common Name	Scientific Name
Blue Grama Grass DBG	Bouteloua gracilis
Brittlebush DBG	Encelia spp
Butterfly Mist (Ageratum corymbosum) DBG	Ageratum corymbosum
Canyon hackleberry DBG	Celtis reticulata
Carrot NSL	Daucus carota
Citrus NSL	Citrus
Climbing milkweed vine	Sarcostemma cyanchoides
Comanche Campfire Primrose NSL	Oenothera macrocarpa 'Comanche Campfire'
Cooley bundleflower NSL	Desmanthus cooleyi
Cottonwood	Populus deltoides
Dalea spp DBG NSL	Dalea spp
Datura NSL	Datura
Deer Vetch DBG NSL	Lotus rigidus
Desert Agave DBG NSL	Agave deserti
Desert bahia NSL	Bahia absinthifolia
Desert broom NSL	Baccharis sarathroides
Desert ceanothus NSL	Ceanothus greggii
Desert cotton DBG NSL	Gossypium thurberi
Desert Fern DBG	Lysiloma watsonii
Desert hackberry DBG NSL	Celtis pallida
Desert Honeysuckle DBG NSL	Anisacanthus thurberi
Desert lavender NSL	Hyptis emoryi
Desert Marigold NSL	Baileya multiradiata)
Desert Milkweed DBG NSL	Asclepias subulata
Desert Plumbago DBG	Plumbago scandens
Desert Rosemallow DBG NSL	Hibiscus coulteri
Desert Senna DBG	Senna covesii
El Toro Bull Grass	Muhlenbergia emersleyi 'El Toro'
Fairy duster DBG NSL	calliandra spp
Fall false tansy aster NSL	Dieteria asteroides var glandulosa
False Indigo DBG NSL	Amorpha fruticosa
Flattop & Wright's DBG	Buckwheat
Fleabane NSL	Erigeron divergens)
Gaillardia spp NSL	Gaillardia spp

A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Host Plant Common Name	Scientific Name
Giant Sand milkweed DBG	<i>Asclepias erosa</i>
Globemallow DBG	<u>Sphaeralcea ambigua</u>
Golden-flowered Agave DBG NSL	<i>Agave chrysantha</i>
Gregg's Mist Flower NSL	<i>Conoclinium greggii</i>
Hairy wedelia	<i>Wedelia hispida</i>
Hollyhock NSL	<i>Alcea rosea</i>
Hollyhocks	Hollyhocks
Hoptree	<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u>
Hummingbird Trumpet DBG	<i>Epilobium canum</i>
Indian Mallow NSL	<i>Abutilon palmeri</i>
Indiangrass DBG	<u>Sorghastrum nutans</u>
Indigo	<i>Indigofera</i> spp
Ironwood DBG	<i>Olneya tesota</i>
<u>Justicia</u> spp DBG NSL	<u>Justicia</u> spp
<u>Kidneywood</u> DBG NSL	<i>Eysenhardtia</i> spp
Leadwort/white plumbago	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>
<u>Leucophyllum</u> spp DBG NSL	<u>Leucophyllum</u> spp
Lindheimer's Muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>
Lingum vitae DBG	<i>Guaiacum</i> spp
Loveroot	<u>Ligusticum Porteri</u>
Mallows DBG	Mallows
Mesquite DBG	Prosopis spp
Mexican Evening Primrose NSL	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i> 'Siskiyou'
Mexican Redbud DBG	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>mexicana</i>
Mexican sunflower bush	<u>Tithonia fruticosa</u>
Mexican sunflower bush	<u>Tithonia fruticosa</u>
Milkweed vine	<i>Matelea</i> spp
Mojave milkweed NSL	<i>Asclepias nyctaginifolia</i>
Monkey flower	<u>Mimulus</u> spp
Nashville Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigida</i> 'Nashville'
Native Desert Willow NSL	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> arcuate
<u>Nettles</u> NSL	<u>Nettles</u>
New Mexico hops	<i>Humulus lupulus</i> var. <i>neomexicanus</i>
New Mexico thistle NSL	<i>Cirsium neomexicanum</i>

A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Host Plant Common Name	Scientific Name
Oaks	<u>Quercus spp</u>
Old man's beard NSL	<u>Clematis drumondii</u>
Palmer's Agave DBG NSL	<u>Agave palmeri</u>
Parish Goldeneye DBG	<u>Viguiera parishii</u>
Parry's Agave DBG NSL	<u>Agave parryi</u>
Passionvines DBG	<u>Passiflora spp</u>
Pelatazo NSL	<u>Abutilon incanum</u>
<u>Penstemons</u> DBG	<u>Penstemons</u>
Perennial Rockcress NSL	<u>Boechera perennans,</u>
Pine-leaf Milkweed DBG, NSL	<u>Asclepias linaria</u>
<u>Prunus</u> spp (Cherry, plum, peach, etc)	<u>Prunus spp</u>
Purple Threeawn DBG NSL	<u>Aristida purpurea</u>
Rabbit Brush DBG	<u>Ericameria nauseosus</u> syn. <u>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</u>
Ragweed	<u>Ambrosia spp</u>
Regal Mist Grass DBG	<u>Muhlenbergia capillaris 'Regal Mist'</u>
Rockcress	<u>Arabis perennans</u>
Rue	<u>Ruta graveolens</u>
Ruellia DBG NSL	<u>Ruellia spp</u>
Saltbushes DBG NSL	<u>Atriplex spp.</u>
San Felipe dogweed NSL	<u>Adenophyllum porophylloides</u>
Sanddune wallflower	<u>Erysimum capitalum</u>
Schott's Agave DBG NSL	<u>Agave schottii</u>
Schott's Yucca DBG	<u>Yucca schottii</u>
Seep willow NSL	<u>Baccharis salicifolia</u>
Senna spp DBG	Senna spp
Shrubby Indian mallow NSL	<u>Abutilon abutiloides</u>
Sideoats Grama DBG NSL	<u>Bouteloua curtipendula</u>
Sierra Queen Anne's Lace	<u>Perideridia parishii</u>
Snapdragon vine NSL	<u>Maurandya antirrhiniflora</u>
Soaptree Yucca DBG	<u>Yucca elata</u>
Sunflowers NSL	<u>Helianthus spp</u>
Sweetbush DBG, NSL	<u>Bebbia juncea</u>
Tenaza	<u>Havardia pallens</u>
Texas Tuberose DBG	<u>Manfreda maculosa</u>

A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Host Plant Common Name	Scientific Name
Toumey's Agave DBG NSL	Agave toumeyana
Turpentinebroom DBG	Thamnosma montana
Utah Agave DBG NSL	Agave utahensis
Watson's Dutchman pipevine DBG, NSL	Aristolochia watsonii
Western mugwort	Artemisia ludoviciana
White Evening Primrose, Tufted Evening Primrose NSL	Oenothera caespitosa
White stem milkweed DBG, NSL	Asclepias albicans
Whitewoolly twinip	Stemodia durantifolia
Wild carrot NSL	Daucus pusillus
Willows	Salix spp
Wolfberry NSL	Lycium spp
Wright's milkpea	Galactia wrightii
Yarrow	Achillea millefolia
Yellow Sweet Clover	Melilotus officinalis

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A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Nectar Plant Images

Nectar Flowers

[Abutilon palmeri](#) (Indian Mallow)



[Moonshine Yarrow - Achillea 'Moonshine'](#)



[Brownfoot \(Acourtia wrightii\)](#)



[Ageratum corymbosum](#) (Blue Mist Flower)



[Butterfly Mist \(Ageratum corymbosum\)](#)



[Hollyhock \(Alcea rosea\)](#)



[False Indigo \(Amorpha fruticosa\)](#)



[Antigonon leptopus 'Baja Red'](#) (Red Queen's Wreath)



[Yellow Columbine \(Aquilegia chrysantha\)](#)



[Powis Castle Wormwood - Artemisia x 'Powis Castle'](#)



[Bloodflower \(Asclepias curassavica\)](#)



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Nectar Flowers

Pineleaf Milkweed - *Asclepias linaria*



Desert Milkweed - *Asclepias subulata*



Butterfly Milkweed - *Asclepias tuberosa*



Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*)



Sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*)



Berlandiera lyrata (Chocolate Flower)



Caesalpinia pulcherrima (Red Bird of Paradise, Pride of Barbados)



Blue Mist (*Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'Dark Knight')



Damianita (*Chrysactinia mexicana*)



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Nectar Flowers

New Mexico Thistle (*Cirsium neomexicanum*)



New Mexico thistle, by Danielle Carlock. (cc) BY-ND

Mistflower (*Conoclinium dissectum*)



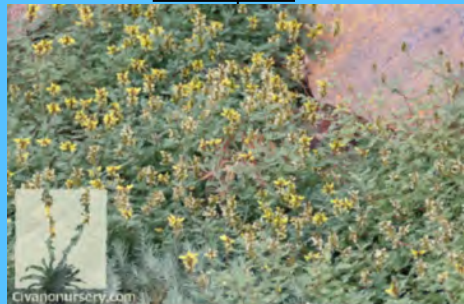
Patrick Alexander

Gregg's Mist Flower - *Conoclinium greggii*



Civanonursery.com

Lemon Dalea - *Dalea capitata*



Civanonursery.com

Arizona Foldwing (*Dicliptera resupinata*)



Fall false tansy aster (*Dieteria asteroides* var. *glandulosa*)



Hummingbird Trumpet (*Epilobium canum*)



Max Licher

Fleabane (*Erigeron divergens*)



Little Rascal Buckwheat - *Eriogonum fasciculatum* 'Little Rascal'



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A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Nectar Flowers

Flattop & Wright's Buckwheat

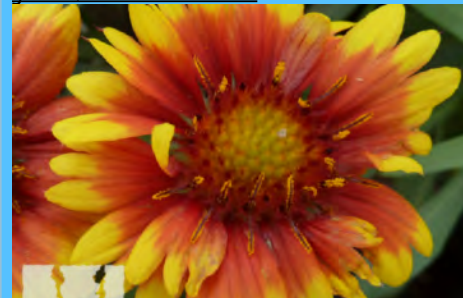


Blanketflower (Gaillardia aristata)

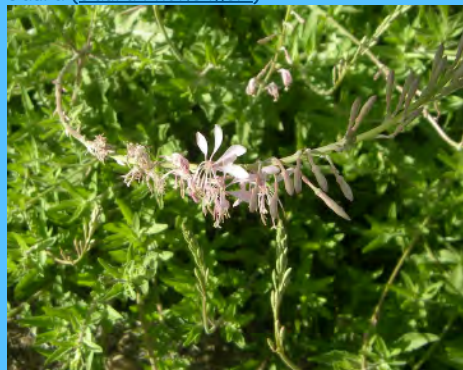


Blanketflower, by Danielle Carlock, (CC) BY-NC

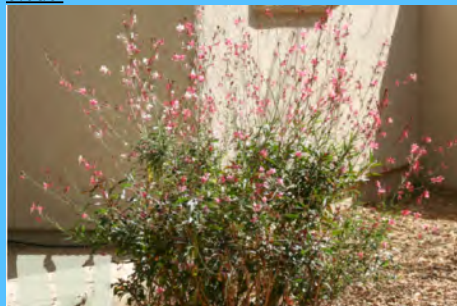
Arizona Sun Blanket Flower - Gaillardia x grandiflora 'Arizona Sun'



Gaura (Gaura lindheimeri)



Pink Cloud Gaura - Gaura lindheimeri 'Pink Cloud'



Gaura lindheimeri 'Siskiyou Pink' (Pink Gaura)



Gaura lindheimeri 'Whirling Butterflies' (White Gaura)



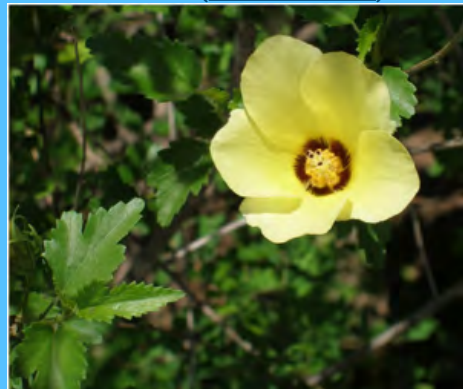
Germander



Glandularia gooddingii (Goodding Verbena)



Desert Rosemallow (Hibiscus coulteri)



Red Justicia (Justicia candidans)



Lantana montevidensis (Purple Trailing Lantana)



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Nectar Flowers

Lantanas



Lavenders (Lavandula spp.)



Linum lewisii (Blue Flax)



Lobelia laxiflora (Loose-flowered Lobelia)



Deer Vetch (Lotus rigidus)



Blackfoot Daisy (Melampodium leucanthum)



Oenothera caespitosa (White Evening Primrose, Tufted Evening Primrose)



Comanche Campfire Primrose - Oenothera macrocarpa 'Comanche Campfire'



Oenothera speciosa 'Siskiyou' (Mexican Evening Primrose)



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Nectar Flowers

Passionvines (*Passiflora* spp)



Thomas Van Devender

Penstemon amphotellae (Mexican Blue Penstemon)



©Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

Penstemon baccharifolius Diablo™ (Rock Penstemon)



Penstemon barbatus 'Coral Baby' (Coral Baby Penstemon)



Penstemon eatoni (Firecracker Penstemon)



Penstemon havardii (Big Bend Beardtongue)



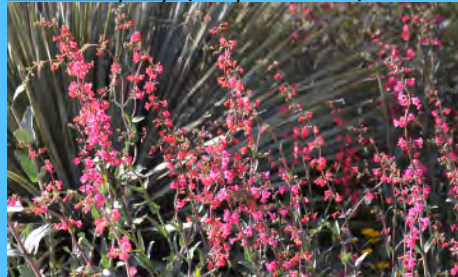
©Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

Wild pink snapdragon (*Penstemon palmeri*)



Wild pink snapdragon, by Danielle Carlock (cc) BY-ND

Penstemon parryi (Parry Penstemon)



Pineleaf Penstemon - *Penstemon pinifolius*



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Nectar Flowers

Desert Penstemon (*Penstemon pseudospectabilis*)



Desert penstemon, by Danielle Carlock. (cc) BY-NC

Penstemon pseudospectabilis (Canyon Penstemon)



Penstemon spectabilis



Penstemon thurberi (Thurber's Penstemon)



Penstemon triflorus (Hill Country Penstemon)



©Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

Penstemon wrightii (Texas Rose, Wright Penstemon)



©Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

Desert Plumbago (*Plumbago scandens*)



Poliomintha maderensis Lavender Spice™ (Mexican Oregano)



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Odora (*Porophyllum gracile*)



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Nectar Flowers

Paperflower (*Psilostrophe cooperi*)



Mexican Petunia - *Ruellia brittoniana*



Ruellia brittoniana 'Blanca' (White Dwarf Ruellia)



Ruellia brittoniana 'Katie' (Blue Dwarf Ruellia)



Ruellia brittoniana 'Rosa' (Pink Dwarf Ruellia)



Blue Chihuahuan Sage - *Salvia chamaedryoides*



Red Salvia (*Salvia coccinea*)



Mealy-cup Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)



Mealycup Sage - *Salvia farinacea*



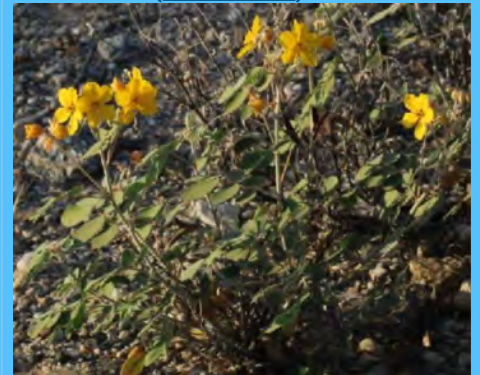
Salvia greggii (Autumn Sage)



Salvia X Raspberry Delight® (Raspberry Delight® Sage)



Desert Senna (*Senna covesii*)



A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Nectar Flowers

[Sphaeralcea ambigua](#) (Globe Mallow)



[Sphaeralcea ambigua Louis Hamilton™](#) (Louis Hamilton™ Globe Mallow)



[Sphaeralcea ambigua Papago Pink™](#) (Papago Pink™ Globe Mallow)



[Rodney's Aster](#) (*Symphotrichum praealtum*)



[Angelita Daisy](#) (*Tetaneuris acaulis*)



[Sandpaper Verbena](#) - *Verbena rigida*



[Purple Moss Verbena](#) - *Verbena tenuisecta* 'Purple'



[Wedelia texana Devil's River™](#) (*Zexmenia*)



[Desert and Prairie Zinnia](#)



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A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Nectar Plant List by Common Name

Common Name	Scientific Name
Blackfoot Daisy	<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>
Canyon Penstemon	<i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i>
Loose-flowered Lobelia	<i>Lobelia laxiflora</i>
Parry Penstemon	<i>Penstemon parryi</i>
Red Queen's Wreath	<i>Antigonon leptopus</i> 'Baja Red'
White Evening Primrose, Tufted Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>
Pink Dwarf Ruellia	<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> 'Rosa'
Angelita Daisy, Four Nerve Daisy, Perky Sue	<i>Tetranneuris acaulis</i>
Arizona Foldwing	<i>Dicliptera resupinata</i>
Arizona Sun Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i> 'Arizona Sun'
Autumn Sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>
Big Bend Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon havardii</i>
Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>
Blood Flower	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>
Blue Chihuahuan Sage	<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>
Blue Dwarf Ruellia	<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> 'Katie'
Blue Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>
Blue Mist	<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i> 'Dark Knight'
Blue Mist Flower	<i>Ageratum corymbosum</i>
Brownfoot	<i>Acourtia wrightii</i>
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Butterfly Mist	<i>Ageratum corymbosum</i>
Chocolate Flower	<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>
Comanche Campfire Primrose	<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> 'Comanche Campfire'
Coral Baby Penstemon	<i>Penstemon barbatus</i> 'Coral Baby'
Damianita	<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i>
Deer Vetch	<i>Lotus rigidus</i>
Desert and Prairie Zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i>
Desert Lobelia	<i>Lobelia laxiflora</i>
Desert Marigold	<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>
Desert Milkweed	<i>Asclepias subulata</i>
Desert Penstemon	<i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i>
Desert Plumbago	<i>Plumbago scandens</i>
Desert Rosemallow	<i>Hibiscus coulteri</i>

A Visual Guide to Low Desert Butterflies and Moths

Common Name	Scientific Name
Desert Senna	<i>Senna covesii</i>
Desert Verbena	<i>Glandularia gooddingii</i>
Fall false tansy aster	<i>Dieteria asteroides</i> var <i>glandulosa</i>
False Indigo	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
Firecracker penstemon	<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>
Flattop & Wright's Buckwheat	Flattop & Wright's Buckwheat
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron divergens</i>
Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>
Germander	Germander
Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>
Golden Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> 'Silky Gold'
Golden Columbine	<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i>
Goodding Verbena	<i>Glandularia gooddingii</i>
Gregg's Mist Flower	<i>Conoclinium greggii</i>
Hill Country Penstemon	<i>Penstemon triflorus</i>
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>
Hummingbird Trumpet	<i>Epilobium canum</i>
Indian Mallow	<i>Abutilon palmeri</i>
Lantanas	<i>Lantanas</i>
Lavenders	<i>Lavandula</i> spp.
Lemon Dalea	<i>Dalea capitata</i>
Little Rascal Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> 'Little Rascal'
Louis Hamilton™ Globe Mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i> Louis Hamilton™
Mealycup Sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>
Mexican Blue Penstemon	<i>Penstemon amphorellae</i>
Mexican Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i> 'Siskiyou'
Mexican Lobelia	<i>Lobelia laxiflora</i>
Mexican Oregano	<i>Poliomintha maderensis</i> Lavender Spice™
Mexican Petunia	<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i>
Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium dissectum</i>
Moonshine Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i> 'Moonshine'
New Mexico Thistle	<i>Cirsium neomexicanum</i>
Odora	<i>Porophyllum gracile</i>
Papago Pink™ Globe Mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i> Papago Pink™

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Common Name	Scientific Name
Paperflower	<i>Psilostrophe cooperi</i>
Passionvines	<i>Passiflora</i> spp
Penstemon spectabilis	<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>
Penstemons	<i>Penstemon</i> spp.
Pineleaf Milkweed	<i>Asclepias linaria</i>
Pineleaf Penstemon	<i>Penstemon pinifolius</i>
Pink Cloud Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> 'Pink Cloud'
Pink Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> 'Siskiyou Pink'
Powis Castle Wormwood	<i>Artemisia</i> x 'Powis Castle'
Purple Moss Verbena	<i>Verbena tenuisecta</i> 'Purple'
Purple Trailing Lantana	<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>
Raspberry Delight® Sage	<i>Salvia</i> X Raspberry Delight®
Red Bird of Paradise, Pride of Barbados	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>
Red Justicia	<i>Justicia candidans</i>
Red Salvia	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>
Rock Penstemon	<i>Penstemon baccharifolius</i> Diablo™
Rodney's Aster	<i>Symphotrichum praealtum</i>
Sandpaper Verbena	<i>Verbena rigida</i>
Sweetbush	<i>Bebbia juncea</i>
Texas Rose, Wright Penstemon	<i>Penstemon wrightii</i>
Thurber's Penstemon	<i>Penstemon thurberi</i>
White Dwarf Ruellia	<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> 'Blanca'
White Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> 'Whirling Butterflies'
Wild pink snapdragon	<i>Penstemon palmeri</i>
Yellow Columbine	<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i>
Zexmenia	<i>Wedelia texana</i> Devil's River™

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Contributors and Resources

- [Meridith Masoner, Admin, Pollinator Gardening in the Southwest Facebook Group](#)
- [SEINet Arizona - New Mexico Chapter](#)
- [AMWUA One for Water](#)
- [Southwest Desert Flora](#)
- [Butterflies and Moths of North America](#)
- [Xerces Society](#)

- [Assessing Your Site for Improving Habitat \(Xerces Society\)](#)
- [Selecting Plants for Pollinators](#)
- [A Guide to Collecting and Growing Sonoran Desert Wildflowers](#)
- [Great Milkweed Grow Out \(Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden \(DBG\)\)](#)
- [Plants for Creating a Low-Desert Butterfly Garden \(DBG\)](#)

Maricopa Native Seed Library (email: seedlibrary@scottsdalecc.edu)

- [Introduction to Native Plant Gardening \(recorded presentation\)](#)
- [Nectar Plants in the Seed Library](#) - want to grow your own nectar plants - free seeds here!
- [Host Plants in the Seed Library](#) - free host plant seeds!
- [STARTER PALETTE OF BUTTERFLY AND MOTH LARVAL HOST PLANTS FOR MARICOPA COUNTY](#)
- [ADVANCED LARVAL HOST PLANT PALETTE FOR MARICOPA COUNTY](#)

Video Presentations

- [Protecting Pollinators in Santa Fe: Introducing the Santa Fe Pollinator Trail \(Xerces Society\)](#)
- [Bringing Back the Pollinators \(Xerces Society, 5 mins\)](#)

Nurseries

- [Spadefoot Nursery \(Tucson\)](#) - Native Plants, includes educational content about plants, butterflies and gardening
- [Desert Survivors Plant Lists \(Tucson\)](#) - Native Plants, includes lists of nectar and larval plants
- [Native Landscaping Partners: The Arizona Native Plant Society](#)
- [Mountain States Wholesale Nursery](#)
- [Civano Nursery \(Tucson\)](#)

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