

**Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas**

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Mike Quinn, president  
 Austin Butterfly Forum  
[entomike@gmail.com](mailto:entomike@gmail.com) - 512-577-0250

**Plant Family**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Caterpillar Food Plant For These Butterflies</b>
<b>Acanthaceae - Acanthus Family</b>		
<i>Anisacanthus wrightii</i>	Flame acanthus	Crimson Patch
<i>Dicliptera brachiata</i>	False Mint	Texan Crescent
<i>Dyschoriste linearis</i>	Snake herb, Narrowleaf	Common Buckeye
<i>Ruellia carolinensis</i>	Small Flower Ruellia	Texan Crescent
<i>Ruellia drummondiana</i>	Drummond's Wild petunia	Common Buckeye
<i>Ruellia nudiflora</i>	Common Wild petunia	Common Buckeye
<i>Ruellia occidentalis</i>	Western Ruellia	Common Buckeye, White Peacock
<i>Siphonoglossa pilosella</i>	Hairy Tube-tongue	Elada Checkerspot, Vesta Crescent, Texan Crescent
<b>Apiaceae - Parsley Family</b>		
<i>Daucus pusillus</i>	Wild carrot	Black Swallowtail
<i>Ciclospermum</i>	Celery	Black Swallowtail
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Black Swallowtail
<i>Polytaenia</i>	Parsley	Black Swallowtail
<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Dill	Black Swallowtail
<b>Asclepiadaceae - Milkweed Family</b>		
<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>	Blunt-Leaf milkweed	Queen
<i>Asclepias asperula</i>	Antelope horns	Queen [a preferred host plant]
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Tropical milkweed	Monarch, Queen [not native to CenTex]
<i>Asclepias oenotheroides</i>	Zizotes or Sidecluster mw	Monarch [a preferred host plant]
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	Monarch
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple milkweed	Monarch
<i>Asclepias texana</i>	Texas milkweed	Monarch
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed	Monarch, Gray Hairstreak
<i>Asclepias viridis</i>	Green milkweed	Monarch [a preferred host plant]
<i>Cynanchum barbigerum</i>	Cynanchum	Variiegated Fritillary
<i>Cynanchum unifarum</i>	Talayote	Queen, Soldier
<i>Matelea edwardsensis</i>	Plateau milkvine	Queen

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<i>Sarcostemma crispum</i>	Wavy-leaf milkweed vine	Queen, Soldier, Monarch
<i>Sarcostemma cynanchoides</i>	Climbing milkweed	Soldier

**Asteraceae - Sunflower Family**

[many plants in this family are also very good nectar plants]

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Painted Lady
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Short ragweed	Bordered Patch
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Giant ragweed	Bordered Patch, Gorgon Checkerspot
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	White sage	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Aster drummondii</i>	Texas aster	Pearl Crescent
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	White aster	Pearl Crescent
<i>Aster praealtus</i>	Tall aster	Pearl Crescent
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Seepwillow	Fatal Metalmark, Elada Checkerspot
<i>Bidens aristosa</i>	Tickseed sunflower	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk-thistle	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Centaurea americana</i>	Basket flower	Painted Lady
<i>Cirsium ochrocentrum</i>	Yellow-spine thistle	Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Horseweed	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Dyssodia tagetoides</i>	Dogweed	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Eup. betonicifolium</i>	Betony-Leaf Eupatorium	Rounded Metalmark
<i>Eupatorium greggii</i>	Palm-leaf Eupatorium	Rawson's Metalmark
<i>Eupatorium havanensis</i>	Shrubby boneset	Rawson's Metalmark, Bordered Patch
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Late Eupatorium	Rounded Metalmark
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Indian blanket	Bordered Patch
<i>Gnaphalium</i>	Cudweed	American Lady
<i>Helenium amarum</i>	Yellow bitterweed	Dainty Sulphur
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower	Bordered Patch, Gorgon Checkerspot, Silvery Checkerspot, Painted Lady, American Lady
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Maximillian sunflower	Bordered Patch
<i>Heliantus petiolaris</i>	Plains sunflower	Gorgon Crescent
<i>Heliantus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem artichoke	Bordered Patch, Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Heterotheca latifolia</i>	Camphor weed	Bordered Patch
<i>Palafoxia callosa</i>	Palafoxia	Bordered Patch, Dainty Sulphur
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	False ragweed	Bordered Patch
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Brown-eyed susan	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Senecio ampullaceus</i>	Texas groundsel	American Lady
<i>Silphium</i>	Rosinweed	Bordered Patch
<i>Silybum marianus</i>	Milk thistle	American Lady
<i>Simsia calva</i>	Bush sunflower	Bordered Patch
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	Tall goldenrod	Silvery Checkerspot

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<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	Wingstem	Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	Cowpen daisy	Bordered Patch
<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Frostweed	Bordered Patch, Silvery Checkerspot
<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>	Western ironweed	Painted Lady
<i>Viguiera dentata</i>	Goldeneye	Bordered Patch
<i>Wedelia hispida</i>	Zexmenia	Bordered Patch
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur	Bordered Patch

**Boraginaceae - Borage Family**

<i>Myosotis</i>	Scorpion-grass	Painted Lady
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**Brassicaceae - Mustard Family**

<i>Arabis canadensis</i>	Sicklepod	Falcate Orangetip
<i>Arabis petiolaris</i>	Brazos Rockcress	Olympia Marble
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	Tansy mustard	Olympia Marble, Cabbage White, Checkered White
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	Peppergrass	Falcate Orangetip, Whites
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress	Great Southern White
<i>Streptanthus bracteatus</i>	Bracted twist-flower	Falcate Orangetip

**Cannaceae - Canna Family**

<i>Canna</i>	Canna	Brazilian Skipper
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**Capparidaceae - Caper Family**

<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i>	Clammy weed	Cabbage White, Checkered White, Great Southern White
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**Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family**

Pigweed	Skippers, Western Pigmy Blue, Painted Lady
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**Crassularaceae - Stone Crop Family**

<i>Sedum nuttallianum</i>	Yellow stonecrop	Gray Hairstreak, Common Buckeye, Variegated Fritillary
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**Euphorbiaceae - Spurge Family**

<i>Bernardia</i>	Oreja de raton	Lacey's Hairstreak
<i>Croton</i>	Encinilla croton	Gray Hairstreak, Goatweed Leafwing, Tropical Leafwing
<i>Dalechampia</i>	Ortiga	Common Mestra, Red Rim, Blue-eyed Sailor
<i>Drypetes</i>	Mula	Florida White
<i>Tragia</i>	Noseburn	Common Mestra, Red Rim, Blue-eyed Sailor
<i>Tragia volubilis</i>	Pringa-moza	Common Mestra, Red Rim, Blue-eyed Sailor

## Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas

### Fabaceae - Legume Family

[lots of caterpillar host plants in this family]

<i>Acacia hirta</i>	Fern acacia	Outis Skipper, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue
<i>Acacia roemeriana</i>	Catclaw acacia	Reakirt's Blue, Mexican Yellow
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Lead plant	Silver-spotted Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Southern Dogface
<i>Astragalus lotiflorus</i>	Loco weed	Gray Hairstreak, Marine Blue, Tailed Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Orange Sulphur
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Wild Blue indigo	Wild indigo Duskywing, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur
<i>Bauhinia congesta</i>	Anacacho orchid-tree	Long-tailed Skipper
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	Henry's Elfin
<i>Desmodium tortuosum</i>	Tickclover	Long-tailed Skipper, Dorantes Longtail, Cassius & Tailed Blue, Variegated Frit., Tailed Orange
<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	Texas Kidneywood	Southern Dogface
<i>Indigofera lindheimeriana</i>	Lindheimer scarlet pea	Fasle Duskywing, Gray Hairstreak, Cassius Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Southern Dogface
<i>Lupinus texensis</i>	Texas Bluebonnet	Northern Cloudywing, Gray Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin, Painted & American Lady, Orange Sulphur
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White sweet clover	Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur
<i>Phaseolus polystachios</i>	Bean	Silver-spotted Skipper, Painted Lady, Orange Sulphur
<i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i>	Ebony	Cassius Blue, Ceraunus Blue, Orange-barred Sulphur, Orange Sulphur
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Honey mesquite	Marine Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Ceraunus Blue
<i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>	Black locust	Zarucco Duskywing, Mexican Yellow
<i>Schrankia</i>	Sensitive briar	Little Yellow, Mimosa yellow
<i>Senna fasciculata</i>	Partridge pea	Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur, Clouded Sulphur
<i>Senna lindheimeri</i>	Lindheimer senna	Orange Sulphur, Yellow Angled-Sulphur, Mexican Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur
<i>Senna roemeriana</i>	Two-leaved senna	Tailed Orange, Orange Sulphur, Statira Sulphur
<i>Sesbania drummondii</i>	Rattlebush	Funereal Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Orange Sulphur
<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	Texas mountain laurel	Henry's Elfin (Solatus ssp.)
<i>Tephrosia lindheimeri</i>	Lindheimer hoary pea	White-striped Longtail
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Reakirt's Blue, Painted Lady, Orange Sulphur, Southern Dogface
<i>Vicia</i>	Winter vetch	Gray Hairstreak, Tailed Blue, Orange Sulphur

### Hydrophyllaceae - Waterleaf Family

<i>Phacelia congesta</i>	Blue-curls	Painted Lady
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### Lamiaceae - Mint Family

<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Tropical sage	Painted Lady
<i>Stachys crenata</i>	Shade betony	Painted Lady

### Liliaceae - Lilly Family

<i>Yucca constricta</i>	Buckley Yucca	Kendalls' Yucca Giant-Skipper
<i>Yucca rupicola</i>	Twist-leaf yucca	Kendalls' Yucca Giant-Skipper

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**Linaceae - Flax Family**

*Linum* Flax Variegated Fritillary

**Loganiaceae - Logania Family**

*Spigelia texana* Texas Pinkroot Soldier

**Malvaceae - Mallow Family**

*Abutilon incanum* Indian mallow Texas Powdered-Skipper, Common Streaky-Skipper  
*Callirhoe involucrata* Winecup Gray Hairstreak  
*Gossypium hirsutum* Cotton Painted Lady  
*Malva neglecta* Common mallow Painted Lady, American Lady  
*Malvella leprosa* Dollar weed Gray Hairstreak, Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak  
*Sida lindheimeri* Lindheimer's sida Checkered-Skipper, Laviana White-Skipper  
*Sphaeralcea angustifolia* Globe mallow Common Streaky-Skipper, Gray Hairstreak, Painted Lady  
*Wissadula holosericea* Velvet-leaf mallow Texas Powdered-Skipper, Common Streaky-Skipper

**Nyctaginaceae - Four-O'Clock Family**

*Boerhaavia coccinea* Scarlet spiderling Variegated Fritillary

**Oxalidaceae - Wood Sorrel Family**

*Oxalis dillenii* Yellow wood sorrel Cyna Blue [rare CenTex butterfly]

**Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family**

*Plantain lanceolata* Ribwort plantain Common Buckeye, Painted Lady, Variegated Fritillary

**Plumbaginaceae - Leadwort Family**

*Plumbago scandens* Hierba de alacran Cassius Blue, Marine Blue [rare CenTex butterflies]

**Poaceae - Grass Family**

*Bouteloua curtipendula* Side-oats grama Grass-Skippers, Satyrs

**Polygonaceae - Knotweed Family**

*Eriogonum annuum* Wild buckwheat Hairstreaks

**Portulacaceae - Purslane Family**

*Portulaca umbraticola* Purslane Variegated Fritillary

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**Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family**

<i>Agalinis edwardsiana</i>	Plateau agalinis	Common Buckeye
<i>Agalinis heterophylla</i>	Prairie agalinis	Tropical Buckeye
<i>Bacopa</i>	Water hyssop	White Peacock
<i>Castilleja indivisa</i>	Texas paintbrush	Common Buckeye
<i>Castilleja purpurea</i>	Prairie paintbrush	Common Buckeye
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Cenizo	Theona Checkerspot
<i>Linaria texana</i>	Texas toadflax	Common Buckeye
<i>Lindernia dubia</i>	False pimpernel	White Peacock
<i>Maurandya antirrhiniflora</i>	snapdragon vine	Common Buckeye
<i>Penstemon cobaea</i>	Foxglove	Common Buckeye
<i>Stemodia tomentosa</i>	Stemodia	Tropical Buckeye

**Turneraceae -Yellow Alder Family**

<i>Turnera diffusa</i>	Hierba del venado	Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary
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**Urticaceae - Nettle Family**

<i>Urtica</i>	Nettles	Red Admiral, Painted Lady, American Lady, Question Mark, Eastern Comma
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**Verbenaceae - Verbena Family**

<i>Lantana horrida</i>	Texas lantana	Painted Lady	[this family is rich in nectar plants]
<i>Lippia alba</i>	Bushy lippia	White Peacock,	
<i>Phyla incisa</i>	Common frogfruit	Phaon Crescent	
<i>Phyla lanceolata</i>	northern frog-fruit	Phaon Crescent	
<i>Verbena halei</i>	Texas vervain	Common Buckeye	

**Violaceae - Violet Family**

<i>Hybanthus verticillatus</i>	Green violet	Variegated Fritillary
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**Viscaceae - Mistletoe**

<i>Phoradendron</i>	Mistletoe	Great Purple Hairstreak
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**SHRUBS**

**Anacardiaceae - Sumac Family**

<i>Rhus virens</i>	Evergreen sumac	Dusky-blue Groundstreak	
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison ivy	Dusky-blue Groundstreak	[probably don't want to plant this one]

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**SHRUBS (cont.)**

**Aquifoliaceae - Holly Family**

*Ilex* Yaupon Dusky-blue Groundstreak

**Cornaceae - Dogwood Family**

*Cornus drummondii* Rough-leaf dogwood Spring Azure

**Malpighiaceae - Malpighia Family**

*Malpighia glabra* Barbados cherry Cassius Blue

**Simaroubaceae - Quassia Family**

*Castela texana* Allthorn Florida White

**Styracaceae - Storax Family**

*Styrax platanifolia* Sycamore-leaf snowbell Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

**Zygophyllaceae - Caltrop Family**

*Guaiacum angustifolium* Guayacan Gray Hairstreak, Lyside Sulphur

**TREES**

**Aceraceae - Maple Family**

*Acer negundo* Boxelder Banded Hairstreak, Mourning Cloak

**Bignoniaceae - Catalpa Family**

*Catalpa* Common catalpa Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

**Cupressaceae - Cypress Family**

*Juniperus ashei* Ashe Juniper Olive Hairstreak

*Juniperus virginiana* Red Cedar Olive Hairstreak

**Ebenaceae - Ebony Family**

*Diospyros texana* Texas persimmon Gray Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin

**Fagaceae - Oak Family**

*Quercus buckleyi* Texas red oak Skippers, Hairstreaks, Admirals

*Quercus fusiformis* Texas live oak Skippers, Hairstreaks, California Sister

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<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Blackjack oak	Skippers, Hairstreaks, Admirals
<i>Quercus sinuata</i>	Bastard oak	Skippers, Hairstreaks, California Sister

**Juglandaceae - Walnut Family**

<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan	Hairstreaks
<i>Juglans spp.</i>	Walnuts	Hairstreaks

**Lauraceae - Laurel Family**

<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Spicebush Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
<i>Persea borbonia</i>	Redbay	Palamedes, Spicebush, Eastern Tiger, and Giant Swallowtail
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafrass	Palamedes, Spicebush and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

**Moraceae - Mulberry Family**

<i>Ficus</i>	Figs	Daggerwings [we should be so lucky!]
<i>Morus</i>	Mulberries	Daggerwings

**Oleaceae - Olive Family**

<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash	Mourning Cloak
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Red ash	Banded Hairstreak, E. Tiger Swallowtail, Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail

**Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family**

<i>Ceanothus herbaceus</i>	Redroot	Spring Azure
<i>Karwinskia humboldtiana</i>	Coyotillo	Two-barred Flasher
<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Carolina buckthorn	Gray Hairstreak, Spring Azure, Painted Lady

**Rosaceae - Rose Family**

<i>Crataegus</i>	Hawthorne	Gray Hairstreak, Banded Hairstreak, E. Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple
<i>Prunus serotina var. eximia</i>	Escarpment Black cherry	Banded Hairstreak, Spring Azure, Eastern & Two-tailed Tiger Swt, Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple

**Rutaceae - Citrus Family**

<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer ash	E. Tiger, Two-tailed Tiger, Giant and Thoas Swallowtails
<i>Thamnosma texana</i>	Dutchman's breeches	Black Swallowtail,
<i>Zanthoxylum hirsutum</i>	Prickly ash	Eastern Tiger, Two-tailed Tiger and Giant Swallowtails
<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	Colima	Sickle-winged Skipper, Giant Swallowtail, Thoas Swallowtail

**Salicaceae - Willow Family**

<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Admiral
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern cottonwood	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Admiral



## Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas

### Sapindaceae - Soapberry Family

<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	Soapberry	Soapberry Hairstreak
<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	Mexican Buckeye	Henry's Elfin (solatus ssp.)

### Tiliaceae - Linden Family

<i>Tilia caroliniana</i>	Carolina Basswood	White-M Hairstreak, Eastern Comma, Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple
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### Ulmaceae - Elm Family

<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry	American Snout, Emperors, Question Mark
<i>Celtis pallida</i>	Granjeno	American Snout, Empress Leila
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	Question Mark, Eastern Comma, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady

## VINES

### Aristolochiaceae - Pipevine Family

<i>Aristolochia</i>	Dutchman's pipe	Pipevine Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail
<i>Aristolochia erecta</i>	Swan flower	Pipevine Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail

### Convolvulaceae - Morning Glory Family

<i>Ipomoea trichocarpa</i>	Purple bindweed	Variegated Fritillary
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### Passifloraceae - Passionvine Family

<i>Passiflora affinis</i>	Bracted Passionflower	Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	Corona de Cristo	Variegated Fritillary, Mexican Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Maypop	Variegated Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary
<i>Passiflora lutea</i>	Yellow passionflower	Julia Heliconian, Mexican Silverspot, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Passionflower	Julia Heliconian, Mexican Silverspot, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
<i>Passiflora tenuiloba</i>	Slender-lobe passionflwr	Gulf Fritillary

### Ranunculaceae - Buttercup Family

<i>Clematis drummondii</i>	Old man's beard	Fatal Metalmark
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Plant and butterfly list was modified from:

### Central Texas Butterfly Gardening

Plants useful as food for butterfly larvae in Central Texas

<http://www.utexas.edu/tmm/tnhc/entomology/butterfly/tnhc-tx-butterfly-gardening.pdf>

## Caterpillar Food Plants for Central Texas

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Central Texas Checklists, Links and Books for Native Plant, Butterfly, Caterpillar and Gardening Information:

### Plant Guides:

#### **Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country**

Enquist, M. 1987  
Lone Star Botanical, Austin. 275 pp.

#### **Native & Naturalized Woody Plants of Austin & the Hill Country**

Brother Daniel Lynch, C.S.C. 1981.  
Acorn Press, Austin. 180 pp.

### Butterfly Guides and Checklists:

#### **Butterflies Through Binoculars, The West**

Jeffrey Glassberg, 2001.  
Oxford University Press, Oxford. 384 pp.

#### **Focus Guide to Butterflies of North America**

Jim P. Brock & Kenn Kaufman. 2003.  
Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 384 pp.

#### **Travis County Butterfly Checklist (1990)**

<http://www.texasento.net/Travislist.htm>

#### **Travis County Butterfly Checklist (2008)**

<http://www.texasento.net/abftravis-butterfly-list.pdf>

### Caterpillar Guides:

#### **Caterpillars in the Field and Garden**

Thomas Allen, Jim Brock and Jeffrey Glassberg. 2005.  
Oxford University Press, Oxford. 224 pp.

#### **Caterpillars of Eastern North America**

David Wagner. 2005.  
Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 496 pp

### Gardening Guides:

#### **Butterfly Gardening for Texas**

Geyata Ajilvsgi. 2013  
Texas A&M Press, College Station. 448 pp.

#### **Pollinator Conservation Handbook**

The Xerces Society and The Bee Works. 2003.  
The Xerces Society, Portland, OR. 145 pp;

#### **Butterfly Nectar (and Host) Plants for Central Texas**

<http://www.texasento.net/CenTexNectar.pdf>

#### **Austin Butterfly Forum**

Meetings held in the Zilker Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX, 78746 at 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday of each month except December. Membership is \$20 annually per household payable during meetings or by mail to Doris Hill, ABF Treasurer, 1605 Broadmoor, Austin, TX 78723.

<http://www.austinbutterflies.org/>

For more information, please contact Mike Quinn, ABF president at 512-577-0250 or [entomike@gmail.com](mailto:entomike@gmail.com)