

Gardening for Wildlife: Plants in the Sustainability Garden

Below is a summary of plants present in the Sustainability Garden as of April 2020 that serve a wildlife function. On the small scale of our gardening space, we have focused mostly on butterflies, honeybees and native bees. Plants are ordered according to locations in garden to aid in finding them.

For images, “II” means Internet Image; ones taken in the Sustainability Garden “SG” or Terri Hood’s property “TH” may have more notes.

Vine Planters (along concrete wall)

Common Name: **Dutchman’s Pipevine**

Scientific Name: *Aristolochia macrophylla*

Location: **Vine planter**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: ?? (**haven’t observed any visitation**)

Larval host: Yes; **Polydamous and Pipevine swallowtails**

Notes: **First Polydamous sighting on 4/5/20 (!)**



II – Dutchman’s pipe flower II – leaves

II – Polydamous swallowtail

Common Name: **Passion vine**

Scientific Name: ***Passiflora edulis***

Location: **vine planter**

Annual/Perennial: **perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: ?? (**we are not observing fruit set; literature says native bees are better than honeybees for pollination**)

Larval host: **Yes; Gulf Fritillary and Julia butterflies**

Notes: **Have observed Gulf Fritillaries in the garden since the vine was planted (not observed before). Little caterpillar damage to leaves, however.**



II – Passion vine

II – Gulf Fritillary side view



II – Gulf Fritillary top view

II – Julia top view

Common Name: **Bleeding Heart Vine (red flowers)**

Scientific Name: ***Clerodendrum speciosum***

Location: **vine planter**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (visited by butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes:



II - red bleeding heart vine II – flower closeup

Common Name: **Mexican Flame vine**

Scientific Name: ***Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides, Senecio confusus***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia bed (north end, climbing limestone block)**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **Massive blooming sessions multiple times per year; Have seen the following**

nectaring: Gulf Fritillary, Sulfur butterflies, honeybees, native bees



SG – March 2020 flowering

Alternate Turf (walkways between geometric concrete-block-edged Trial Beds)

Common Name: **Creeping Charlie, Fogfruit, Matchsticks**

Scientific Name: ***Phyla nodiflora***

Location: **Alternate turf (between trial beds)**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (most frequently visited flower by native bees in the garden; also honeybees and small butterflies)**

Larval host: **Yes (Phaon Crescent and White Peacock butterflies; both have been observed in garden)**

Notes: **Dominant component in alternate turf; flowers year-round if not cut shorter than 2"**



SG – First alternate turf section 2019



II – flowers



II – white peacock butterfly



II – phaon crescent butterfly

Common Name: **Trefoil, Desmodium**

Scientific Name: ***Desmodium* sp.**

Location: **alternate turf**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes**

Larval host: **Yes (Gray hairstreak, Dorante Longtail skippers)**

Notes: **Secondary component in alternate turf; if seeds are left on plants they stick to clothes**



II – Desmodium



II – gray hairstreak



II – Dorantes longtail

Common Name: **Wireweed**

Scientific Name: ***Sida acuta/ulmifolia***

Location: **alternate turf**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (many bees and butterflies)**

Larval host: **Yes (Gray Hairstreak, Columella Hairstreak, and Tropical Checkered Skipper)**

Notes: **secondary component in alternate turf; will get tall and woody if not regularly cut**



II – wireweed flowers

Common Name: **Virginia pepperweed**

Scientific Name: ***Lepidium virginicum***

Location: **alternate turf**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (a favorite of native bees, also visited by multiple butterflies)**

Larval host: **Yes (multiple whites ... Great Southern White, European Cabbage White, and Checkered White butterflies)**

Notes: **secondary component in alternate turf; flowers are ca. 4" tall, but grows faster than other components so regular trimming still ok.**



II – young plant



II - flowers



II – Great southern white



II – European cabbage white



II – Checkered white

Pollinator Pots (Brown Pots filled with acid pineland soil)

Common Name: **Goldenrod #2**

Scientific Name: ***Solidago* sp.**

Location: **Pollinator pot**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **Donated by Gary Hitchcock; pineland native; needs sandy acidic soil (hence in pollinator pot; quartz sand/compost/pine needles)**



II – pineland native goldenrod #2

Common Name: **Showy rattlebox**

Scientific Name: ***Crotalaria spectabilis***

Location: **pollinator pot**

Annual/Perennial:

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes**

Larval host: **Yes (Ornate bella moth)**

Notes: **Donated by Gary Hitchcock; prefers sandy acidic soil (hence in pollinator pot; quartz sand/compost/pine needles)**



SG – flowers



II – seed pods



II – Ornate Bella Moth

Sustainable Suburbia limestone-boulder-edged beds (focus on perennials)

Common Name: **Goldenrod #1**

Scientific Name: ***Solidago* sp.**

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia long bed**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (mostly bees)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **goes dormant over winter; flowers in summer; spreads by runners. This species/variety was purchased at a native plant nursery (Casey's Corner) and stated to be native.**



II – native goldenrod #1

Common Name: **Corky stem passion vine**

Scientific Name: ***Passiflora suberosa***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia beds; trial beds**

Annual/Perennial: **perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (are setting fruit, so are being visited)**

Larval host: **Yes; Zebra Longwing butterfly**

Notes: **Have seen increase in Zebras in the garden since corky stems were planted**



II – corky stem leaves & flower



II – fruit

II – zebra longwing

Common Name: **Common Ruellia**

Scientific Name: ***Ruellia simplex***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia long bed**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (one of multiple Skippers' favorite flowers; also honeybees)**

Larval host: **Yes, but not of butterflies observed here**

Notes: **Flowers year-round; spreads by runners**



II – Ruellia



II - skipper

Common Name: **Pagoda flower**

Scientific Name: ***Clerodendrum paniculatum***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia long bed**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (particular favorite of Polydamous swallowtail; also visited by hummingbirds and bees)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **gets tall; keeping in back of bed**



II – pagoda flower

Common Name: **Red Firespike**

Scientific Name: ***Odontonema strictum***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia long bed**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (favorite of hummingbirds; also visited by bees and larger butterflies)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **flowering season typically precedes and overlaps with purple firespike**



II – red firespike

Common Name: **Scorpiontail**

Scientific Name: ***Heliotropium angiospermum***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia sugarcane bed**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **yes**

Nectar: **Yes (small-mouthed butterflies)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes:



II – scorpiontail

Common Name: **Sweet Almond**

Scientific Name: ***Aloysia virgata***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia bed north end**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (beloved by bees; one of favorite flowers of Atala butterflies)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **flowers year-round; lovely scent**



II – Sweet almond



II – Atala butterfly on flowers

Common Name: **Firebush**

Scientific Name: ***Hamelia patens***

Location: *In Arboretum behind long Sustainable Suburbia bed*

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (a favorite of our winter resident ruby-throated hummingbirds; also of Zebra longwing butterflies, plus others)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **Not technically part of the garden, but since it's behind the Sustainable Suburbia bed and is such a good wildlife plant we have been removing weed vines and slow-release fertilizing with coffee grounds**



II – firebush



II – ruby throated hummingbird nectaring

Common Name: **Tropical Sage**

Scientific Name: ***Salvia coccinea***

Location: **Sustainable Suburbia long bed**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (bees and butterflies)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **Warblers eat seeds when migrating through.**



II – tropical sage

Trial Beds (geometric concrete-block-edged, focusing on annuals)

Common Name: **Blanketflower**

Scientific Name: ***Gaillardia pulchella***

Location: **Trial beds**

Annual/Perennial: **Annual (self-sows)**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes**

Larval host: **No**

Notes:



SG- flowers & developing seed bundles

Common Name: **Cosmos**

Scientific Name: ***Cosmos* sp.**

Location: **Trial beds**

Annual/Perennial: **Annual**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (mostly bees)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **Self-sows**



II – cosmos flowers

Common Name: Fennel

Scientific Name:

Location: Trial beds

Annual/Perennial: Annual

Florida Native: No

Nectar: Yes (at end of life cycle)

Larval host: Yes (Black Swallowtail)

Notes: Black swallowtails come through in cooler half of year



SG - March 2019 black swallowtail egg-laying II – fennel plant and flowers

Throughout garden

Common Name: **Pigeon Pea**

Scientific Name: ***Cajanus cajan***

Location: **throughout garden**

Annual/Perennial: **Perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (particularly visited by the tiny blue butterflies ... Cassius blue/Miami blue/Ceranus blues, also bees)**

Larval host: **Yes (____ moth observed in leaf-wrapped chrysalis + emerged)**

Notes: **Volunteers freely; most places we do chop-and-drop since it's a nitrogen-fixer; also use for partial shade in summer and as a living trellis**



II – pigeon pea flowers



II – pods



II – Cassius blue butterfly

Common Name: **Tropical milkweed**

Scientific Name: *Asclepias curassavica*

Location: **throughout garden**

Annual/Perennial: **perennial (but will go downhill and/or die if too frequently defoliated by caterpillars OR infested with milkweed bugs)**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes**

Larval host: **Monarch & Queen butterflies**

Notes: **Self-sows; for plant health we need to keep milkweed bug population down by hand-picking**



II – Monarch on milkweed



II – milkweed bug



II – milkweed

Common Name: **Spanish Needles**

Scientific Name: *Bidens alba*

Location: **throughout garden**

Annual/Perennial: **Annual**

Florida Native: **Yes**

Nectar: **Yes (single most visited flowers by wide variety of nectar-seekers)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **volunteers everywhere; we allow to stay in certain locations in Sustainable Suburbia beds year-round, also in trial beds during summer; individual plants should be removed once flowers are spent and needle-like seeds are evident**



II – Spanish needles flower



II – needle-like seeds

Common Name: **Mint**

Scientific Name: ***Mentha* sp.**

Location: **ground cover throughout garden**

Annual/Perennial: **perennial**

Florida Native: **No**

Nectar: **Yes (mostly bees)**

Larval host: **No**

Notes: **late winter flowering**



II – our color mint flowers