

# Butterfly Garden

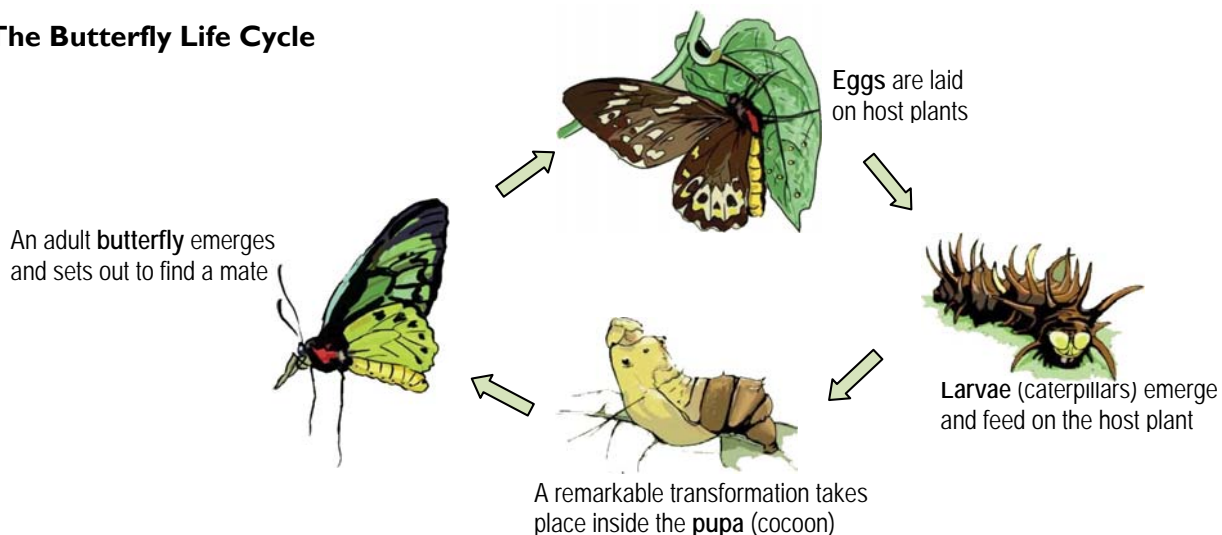
It is a real pleasure to watch butterflies flit from flower to flower in your garden with all their beauty and grace. Butterflies are primarily a tropical group of insects, so with the Redland's sub-tropical climate, over 120 species of butterfly are found here. Some of the local butterflies are very rare, like the Richmond Birdwing and Illidge's Ant-blue Butterflies.

The Butterfly Garden displays local plants that are hosts during the butterfly larval (caterpillar) stage and plants that will provide adult butterflies with food. By planting a variety of flowering plants, not only will they look great, they provide butterflies with an abundance of nectar.

Most butterfly larvae are very specialised feeders, dependent on just one plant type or a group of related plants for hosts. Shrinking bushland areas have led to the decline of many plant species and the butterflies that depend on them. Attracting a certain type of local butterfly to your back yard is often as simple as planting their particular host plant.

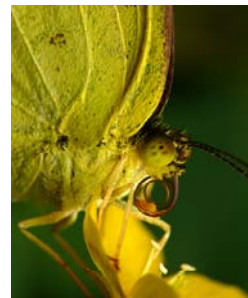
The Richmond Birdwing Butterfly is our largest and arguably our most spectacular local butterfly. Like many butterflies, it relies on a single host plant called Birdwing Vine, *Pararistolochia praevenosa*, to complete its life cycle. With the clearing of rainforests, this vine has become rare in South-east Queensland, and so too has the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. By including several Birdwing Vines in your garden you may be pleasantly surprised by a visit from this vulnerable butterfly.

## The Butterfly Life Cycle



Imperial Hairstreak, *Jalmenus evagoras* butterflies lay their eggs on Wattle Trees (often *Acacia leiocalyx*), that have colonies of a particular black ant that will tend to the caterpillars once hatched.

Butterflies have coiled, tube-like mouths called proboscis. To drink nectar from flowers, they unravel it and use it like a straw.



## Species in the garden

	<p><b>Swainsona galegifolia</b> <b>Darling Pea</b></p> <p>A sprawling wildflower to about 1m with compound leaves and beautiful red-pink flowers. Hardy in full or filtered sun and grows well among grasses and other small shrubs. It is a host plant for the Tailed Pea-blue and Large Grass-yellow butterflies.</p>		<p><b>Pararistolochia praevenosa</b> <b>Birdwing Vine</b></p> <p>A slow growing, woody rainforest vine that prefers a sheltered, fertile site. It is the sole host plant for the beautiful, yet rare, Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. To attract butterflies you will need several plants to provide sufficient food during the larval stage.</p>
	<p><b>Pultenaea villosa</b> <b>Hairy Bush Pea</b></p> <p>A small shrub to 1m with small, soft leaves. During Spring it bears lots of small yellow pea flowers. Prefers a sunny site and pruning will improve shape. It is a host plant for the Fringed Heath-blue Butterfly.</p>		<p><b>Gahnia aspera</b> <b>Red-fruited Saw Sedge</b></p> <p>A hardy, grass-like sedge with eye-catching red seeds and foliage with sharp edges. An outstanding butterfly host plant, used by the Sword-grass Brown and Sedge-skipper Butterfly species.</p>
	<p><b>Viola betonicifolia</b> <b>Arrow-leafed Violet</b></p> <p>A small herb that is the key host plant for the rare Australian Fritillary Butterfly. Naturally, it grows in swampy, coastal areas beneath mat rushes and grasses</p>		<p><b>Callerya megasperma</b> <b>Native Wisteria</b></p> <p>A vigorous, woody vine with large sprays of purple flowers. It will ascend to the tops of trees. It is the host plant for Common Pencilled-blue and Narrow Banded Awl Butterflies.</p>
	<p><b>Lophostemon suaveolens</b> <b>Swamp Box</b></p> <p>A rough-barked tree to 15m, that is common here at IndigiScapes. Occurs naturally in wetter areas. It is the host plant for Coral Jewel and Fiery Jewel Butterflies.</p>		<p><b>Pipturus argenteus</b> <b>Native Mulberry</b></p> <p>A small but wide reaching tree to 8 metres that occurs naturally on rainforest edges. It bears soft, fleshy fruits that are edible and great for attracting birds. It is a host tree for several local species of butterfly. Often the Jezebel Nymph Butterfly larvae can be seen on this tree.</p>
	<p><b>Pseuderanthemum variabile</b> <b>Love Flower</b></p> <p>A tiny herb with small white or pink flowers. This plant is a great local butterfly host plant as several species of butterfly rely on it. It does best in a shady, moist part of the garden.</p>		<p><b>Jagera pseudorhus</b> <b>Foam Bark Tree</b></p> <p>An ornamental dry rainforest tree that grows to 15m. It is sometimes used as a street tree. The fruit has hairs that are irritable to the skin.</p>
	<p><b>Xerochrysum bracteatum</b> <b>Paper Daisy</b></p> <p>Long lasting, pretty flowers make this plant popular for using in the garden and for dried flower arrangements. It is a host plant for the Australian Painted Lady Butterfly.</p>		<p><b>Parsonia straminea</b> <b>Monkey Rope</b></p> <p>A fast growing, robust vine with small white flowers and large cigar-shaped seed pods. It tends to smother trees, so will need trimming back. Is a host plant for the Common Crow Butterfly, which are often seen fluttering around this vine.</p>

## Some other species to consider

Trees		Herbs, small plants	
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo	<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	Creek Mat Rush
<i>Harpullia pendula</i>	Tulipwood	<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge
<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	Macadamia	<i>Ottlochloa gracillima</i>	Slender Shade Grass
<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	Bolly Gum	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	Rice Flower
Shrubs		Vines & Creepers	
<i>Acacia</i> species	Wattle species	<i>Canavalia rosea</i>	Coastal Jack Bean
<i>Syzygium</i> / <i>Acmena</i> sp.	Lily-pilly species	<i>Kennedia rubicunda</i>	Dusky Coral Pea
<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Hop Bush	<i>Passiflora aurantia</i>	Native Passion Vine
<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	Bolwarra	<i>Smilax australis</i>	Barbed-wire Vine
<i>Trema tomentosum</i>	Poison Peach		