

Earth Kind: Environmental Stewardship Program

Walker County LEAF-PRO projects support the Texas Cooperative Extension, Earth Kind: Environmental Stewardship Program.

What are the guiding principles of Earth Kind?

Base your horticultural decisions on:

- A deep, abiding respect for the environment.
- The latest scientifically-sound, research-based information.
- Employ Earth Kind techniques of plant selection and culture to avoid pest problems before they occur.
- Use pesticides only as a last resort. If a pesticide becomes absolutely necessary, then select the most Earth Kind or environmentally responsible product available.
- Putting Earth Kind techniques into everyday practice will help your family, your business, your community and your environment. Remember, "Earth Kind to benefit humankind."



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Environmental Benefits! Butterfly Gardening ...

Walker County



What is LEAF-PRO?

The LEAF-PRO project is an educational outreach effort designed to demonstrate and promote educated, ecologically responsible decision making through home landscape practices.

Objectives of LEAF-PRO:
(Protection Reduction Outreach)

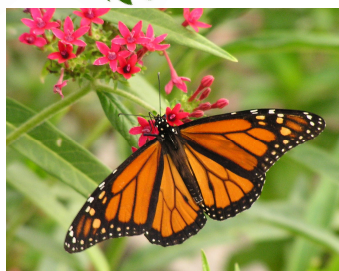
Environmental Benefits! Butterfly Gardening ...

STOP -Don't Spray That Bug!!

Raise butterflies instead.. promote a healthy environment, and teach ecology at the same time with an ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN.

Butterfly Gardening utilizes many native plants and some other favorites in the landscape with low water requirements, low ongoing fertility requirements, no pesticide applications **and a whole lot of outdoor enjoyment for everybody!**

- Develop you Environmental Garden in a sunny area.
- Don't spray Pesticides (yes some of the plants will get eaten, but that is what you want to happen)
- Utilize well drained fertile soil.
- Select plants adapted to our area that produce nectar.
- Select plants to serve as host plants (they will eat these).
- Select plants that bloom at different times of the year.
- Provide a water source.
- Include some flat rocks or other structures for butterflies to land on.
- Prepare to have FUN in the Garden!!



Nectar & Host Plants: Have an attractive Environmental Garden—Select plants to bloom throughout the seasons and plant them near each other. Once established, your native plants will not require as much water as many common landscape plants. Mulch well with recycled landscape compost, leaves, or chipped limbs to prevent moisture loss.

Nectar Plants

-Less than 2 Feet in height-

Asters (Aster spp.)
Brown & Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia spp.)
Heliotrope (Heliotropium arborescens)
Mexican Blanket (Gallardia pulcherrima)
Purple Cone Flower (Echinacea purpurea)
Verbenas (Verbena spp.)

-Less than 4 Feet in height-

Bee Balm (Monarda spp.)
Blazing Star (Liatris spp.)
Cigar Plant (Cuphea "David Verity")
Coral Plant (Russelia spp.)
Pentas (Pentas lanceolata)
Joe-Pye Weed (Eupatorium spp.)
Flame Acanthus (Anisacanthus quadrifidus)
Lantana (Lantana spp.)
Mexican Milk Weed (Asclepias curassavica)
Porter Weed (Stachytarpheta spp.)
Salvias (Salvia spp.)

-Over 4 Feet in height-

Butterfly Bush (Buddleia davidii)
Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)
Flame Bush (Hamelia patens)
Golden Dewdrop (Jatropha integrerrima)
Mexican Bauhinia (Bauhinia mexicana)
Mexican Flame Vine (Senecio confusa)
Yellow Bells (Tecoma stans)



Host Plants

Milkweeds: Mexican Milkweed or Butterfly Weed (Asclepias curassavica)
Passionvines (Passiflora spp.)
Citrus plants: lemon, lime, orange
Parsley family: Dill, Fennel, Parsley, Queen Ann's Lace
Sassafras trees
Dutchman's Pipevine (Aristolochia tomentosa)
Partridge pea (Chamaecrista fasciculata)
Beans –bush & pole types

BEE Prepared!

Nectar plants will encourage or attract other beneficial insects and small animals to live around and visit the garden.

- Hummingbirds
- Bees & Wasps (they are good guys!)
- Lizards
- Frogs & Toads



Best flower color for butterflies are pink, red, purple, orange, yellow.

Caterpillars EAT the host plants, then turn into Butterflies who VISIT the nectar plants!