Florida Wildflowers & Butterflies

Florida is home to a spectacular array of wildflowers and butterflies. There are over 3000 native plants and more than 180 species of butterflies for residents and visitors to enjoy year round. This diversity is due in part to Florida’s geographic location—it is suitable for many temperate and subtropical species. Invite butterflies to your yard by gardening with native plants. Center to their life cycle needs by including nectar plants for adult butterflies and host plants for their larvae.

Butterflies have four life stages: egg, larvae (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult. By planting host plants, you are providing food for caterpillars and can enjoy watching them grow and transform into adult butterflies. The life cycle below shows the egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages of the Zebra Longwing on its host plant, Purple Passionflower.

Our State Butterfly
Zebra Longwing (Heliconius charithonia) is Florida’s state butterfly. Found throughout the state, the delicate adults may live for several months. Female adults deposit small, yellow eggs on young leaves and tendrils of Purple Passionflower. They may produce numerous generations each year.

Our State Wildflower
The genus Coreopsis is Florida’s state wildflower. Often called tickseed, the plants’ small seed heads cling to clothing or pet hair and resemble asterisks. Thirteen Coreopsis species occur in Florida, two of which are found only in Florida. Coreopsis is frequently planted in gardens, and can often be seen alongside roadsides.