



## Mojave Desert Native Plants for Butterflies and Moths

When creating a garden to attract butterflies and moths, it's important to include plants that support the entire life cycle of the insect. This means having flowering plants for adults (nectar plants) and plants with foliage for their caterpillars to eat (larval food plants, or host plants). Adult butterflies often visit a variety of flowers, while their caterpillars typically feed only on certain species. Following are lists of host plants and nectar plants to attract desert butterflies and moths to your garden.

### HOST PLANTS (food for caterpillars)

*Acmispon glaber*—Deerweed—Grey hairstreak, Acmon blue, Southern blue, Ceraus blue, Funereal duskywing, Harford's sulfur

*Acmispon rigidus*—Desert rock pea—Silvery blue, Ceraus blue, Acmon blue, Grey hairstreak

*Amsinckia tessellata*—Fiddleneck—Painted lady

*Asclepias erosa*, *A. subulata*—Desert milkweed, rush milkweed—Monarch butterfly, Queen butterfly

*Atriplex canescens*—Fourwing saltbush—San Emigdio blue, Western pygmy blue, Mojave sootywing, Saltbush sootywing

*Bahiopsis parishii*—Parish's goldeneye—Variable checkerspot, California patch, Sunflower seed moth

*Ceanothus perplexans* (*C. greggii*)—Mojave buckthorn—California tortoiseshell, California hairstreak, Echo blue, Pale swallowtail

*Chilopsis linearis*—Desert willow—Wavy-lined emerald moth

*Datura wrightii*—Sacred datura, jimsonweed—Tobacco hornworm

*Descurainia pinnata*—Western tansy mustard—Desert orangetip

*Dudleya saxosa*—Rock liveforever—Sonoran blue

*Epilobium canum*—California fuchsia—White-lined sphinx moth

*Eriogonum* species—Buckwheats—Behr's metalmark, Desert metalmark (*E. inflatum*), Grey hairstreak, Pallid blue (*E. plumatella*)

*Hesperoyucca whipplei*—Chaparral yucca—Giant yucca skipper

*Penstemon centranthifolius*—Scarlet bugler—Chalcedon checkerspot

*Peritoma arborea*—Bladderpod—Becker's white

*Pinus monophylla*—Single leaf pinyon—*Gloveria arizonensis* moth

*Prosopis glandulosa*, *P. pubescens*—Honey mesquite, screwbean mesquite—Ceranus blue, Marine blue, Grey hairstreak, Leda hairstreak, Palmer's metalmark

*Prunus fasciculata*—Desert almond—Western tent moth

*Psoralea species*—Indigo bush, Smoke tree—buck moth

*Salix* species—Willows—Lorquin's admiral, Mourning cloak, Western tiger swallowtail

*Senna armata*—Desert senna—Cloudless sulfur, Sleepy orange

*Sphaeralcea ambigua*—Apricot mallow—Grey hairstreak, Mallow scrub hairstreak, Painted lady, Small checkered skipper, Northern white skipper butterfly

*Stanleya pinnata*—Prince's plume—Becker's white, Checkered white, Desert orangetip, California marble

*Xylorhiza tortifolia*—Mojave aster—Variable checkerspot

*Yucca brevifolia*, *Y. baccata*, *Y. schidigera*—Joshua tree, Banana yucca, Mojave yucca—Yucca moth, Giant yucca skipper

### NECTAR PLANTS (food for adult butterflies and moths)

*Abronia villosa*—Sand verbena

*Chaenactis* species—Pincushion

*Condea emoryi*—Desert lavender (frost tender—best at low elevations)

*Encelia actoni*—Acton's encelia

*Encelia farinosa*—Brittlebush

*Ericameria* species—Goldenbush, Rabbitbrush

*Eriogonum* species—Buckwheats

*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*—Golden yarrow

*Heliotropium curassavicum*—Salt heliotrope

*Rhus ovata*—Sugarbush

*Salvia* species—Sages

*Senegalia greggii*—Catclaw

*Verbena gooddingii*—Southwestern mock vervain, Goodding's verbena