Wildscaping Your Garden

Trish & Chris Meyer, Sherman Oaks. Online @ www.wildscaping.com

* = not native to California

Gardening for Songbirds

Sambucus mexicana  Mexican Elderberry *(blue berries in summer)*
Heteromeles arbutifolia  Toyon or California Holly *(red berries in winter)*
Prunus ilicifolia  Hollyleaf Cherry *(red cherries don’t last long!)* *(also host plant for Pale Swallowtail, Ceanothus Silk Moth)*
Mahonia ‘Golden Abundance’  *(yellow flowers in spring, blue berries in fall)*
Mahonia nevinii  Nevin’s Barberry *(translucent red berries); rare & endangered.*
Vitis californica (Grape)  California Wild Grape ‘Roger’s Red’ *(bird fave!)*
Ribes (Currant)  lots of species and selections, including Ribes aureum *(yellow)*
Ribes malvaceum *(pink)*, Ribes indecorum *(white)*,
Ribes viburnifolium *(evergreen; ground cover)*
Symphoricarpos albus, S. mollis  Snowberry *(white berries in late summer/fall, winter dormant)*

Goldfinch Magnets:  Sunflowers*, Agastache*, Hooker’s Evening Primrose,
Cobweb Thistle *(for nesting material and seed) (+ host plant))*

Gardening for Hummingbirds

Salvias (most all species)  Salvia ‘Waverly’ selection *(white/lavendar fl., seed not fertile)*
Salvia canariensis (Canary Island Salvia) *(pink-purple)*
Salvia spathacea (Hummingbird Sage) *(magenta)*
Salvia clevelandii (Cleveland’s Sage) *(blue purple)*
plus hybrids of S. clevelandii x S. leucophylla or S. apiana

Agastache (Wild Hyssop)  Agastache rupestris *(tubular flowers for hummingbirds)*
*(also seeds for songbirds)*
*(drought tolerant, winter dormant)*
Agastache wrightii *(seeds loved by goldfinches)*
Agastache ‘Blue Spike’ *(bees fave, seeds for goldfinches)*

Penstemon  Penstemon heterophyllus (Foothill Penstemon) *(blue)*
Penstemon parishii *(magenta)*
Penstemon spectabilis *(pink/purple)*
Penstemon centranthifolius aka Scarlet Bugler

Mimulus (Monkeyflowers)  Mimulus aurantiacus *(yellow) (+ host plant for butterflies)*
Mimulus cardinalis *(red, likes moisture)*

Trichostema  Trichostema lanatum (Woolly Blue Curls) *(difficult)*
Trichostema ‘Cuesta Ridge’ *(slightly easier)*
Calliandra californica (also known as Fairy Duster) grows in the CA deserts. It is native to the CA deserts and is known for its red spikey flowers that attract Orioles (also host plant for Marine Blue butterfly).

Galvezia (both red flowers) is another great plant for butterflies. Galvezia juncea is a rush-like Baja form, while Galvezia speciosa grows through plants and fences.

Arctostaphylos (Manzanita) is a favorite of A. ‘Howard McMinn’ and A. ‘Lester Rowntree’. This plant has many species and sizes to choose from, blooms early for hummingbirds, and attracts tiny insects for feeding nestlings.

Ribes speciosa (Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry) is deciduous. It is R. aureum, R. malvaceum, and other Ribes.

Zauschneria is another great plant for butterflies. California Fuchsia (blooms into fall), many selections.

**Gardening for Butterflies**

Tithonia (nectar only) is Mexican Sunflower. It is an Annual. It grows from seed in May, is very drought-tolerant once established, and blooms throughout the year.

Verbena (nectar only) is a great choice for butterflies. Verbena bonariensis* or Verbena ‘De La Mina’ selection is a good option.

Erysimum (nectar only) is Erysimum capitatum (Western Wallflower), and others.

Monardella (nectar only) is a great choice for butterflies. Many species; very fragrant. Good nectar for bees/butterflies.

Lotus scoparius (also known as Deerweed) is a great choice for butterflies. It is a nectar + food; short-lived perennial.

Buckwheat (nectar + food) is a great choice for butterflies. Eriogonum fasciculatum is California Buckwheat. Eriogonum cinereum is Ashyleaf Buckwheat. Eriogonum crocatum is Conejo Buckwheat. Eriogonum grande var. rubescens is Red Buckwheat. Eriogonum parvifolium is Coast Buckwheat.

Lessingia filaginifolia (upright form, also host plant) or Lessingia filaginifolia ‘Silver Carpet’ (compact; nectar only, but very attractive to small butterflies)

Mimulus is Mimulus guttatus. It is a riparian; food plant for Common Buckeye.

Ceanothus (nectar + food) is a great choice for butterflies. Ceanothus ‘Yankee Point’ (nectar only, mounding ground cover) is a good option. Ceanothus spinosus is also host plant for Pale Swallowtail. Ceanothus leucodermis is host plant for PS, Ceanothus Silk Moth.

Monarchs specifically: Asclepias fascicularis (Narrowleaf Milkweed, native to LA) is a great choice for butterflies. Asclepias currassavica is Brazilian Milkweed.

Painted Ladies specifically: Cheeseweed* (weed!), Hollyhock*, mallows, native thistles

American Lady specifically: Gnaphalium canescens ssp. microcephyllum (Feltleaf Everlasting); also Gnaphalium bicolor

For a full listing of what plants are eaten by butterflies in Southern California, log onto: http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabala/Gardens.htm