

BEES

FACTS ABOUT BEES

- There are more than 20,000 distinct bee species around the world, and more than 4,000 in the U.S. alone.⁴⁸ Bees exist in all types of climates around the world, from forests in Europe to deserts in Africa, even in the Arctic Circle.⁴⁹
- Worldwide, bee populations are in decline. Many factors such as pests, diseases, viruses, monocultures, and molds each have their own effects, but unfortunately, they often intensify the effects of each other.⁵⁰ Over the last decade, multiple reports have indicated that beehives in the U.S. and Europe have suffered hive losses of at least 30%, sometimes higher.⁵¹
- Wild native bees are also disappearing. For example, in Northern Wisconsin, the most abundant bumblebee in the mid-1990s was the yellow-banded bumblebee. However, in the 2000s the species did not even comprise 1% of the bumblebee population.⁵² In fact, one in four wild bee species in the U.S. is at risk of extinction.⁵³
- The rusty patched bumblebee was recently added to the U.S. endangered species list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, after having declined by 87% in just the last twenty years.⁵⁴



WHY WE NEED TO PROTECT BEES

Role in the Ecosystem: Bees are a keystone species; if bees die off it will end most life. In nature, various animals depend on bees for their survival because their food sources – nuts, berries, seeds, and fruits – rely on insect pollination.⁵⁵ Pollination also allows floral growth, which provides habitats for animals, including other insects and birds.⁵⁶ Lastly, bees themselves,⁵⁷ and the honey they produce,⁵⁸ are a source of food for many animals.

Ecosystem Services: While bee populations continue to decline, the production of food crops will decrease as well, as bee pollination is necessary for several important crops.⁵⁹

Bees are responsible for pollinating 35% of agricultural production and almost 90 different commercially grown food crops in the U.S. alone.⁶⁰

Economic Contribution: The global crop production pollinated by bees is valued at \$577 billion.⁶¹ Pollinators contribute \$24 billion to the U.S. agriculture industry, making up a third of the food consumed by Americans.⁶²

BUTTERFLY ATTRACTING PLANTS



Would you like to attract butterflies to your yard? It is easy if you know the larval food plant for caterpillars or nectar plants for the butterflies you desire to see. Hostplants are important to caterpillar stage of butterfly development. Since most caterpillars eat only a very limited range of plants, it is important to have the right food plants or hostplants in your yard. Here is a list of some of the more common butterflies found in Kingsville with their respective Hostplant.

Butterfly Species	Food Plant for its Caterpillar Stage
Giant Swallowtail	Citrus, hoptree, prickly ash, rue
Pipevine Swallowtail	Dutchman's pipevine (<i>Aristolochia</i>)
Southern Dogface	Indigo bush, kidneywood, clovers
Sleepy Orange	Lindheimer senna, clover and other legumes
Cloudless Sulphur	Argentine senna, partridge pea
Lyside Sulphur	Lignum vitae, guayacan
Little Yellow	Bundleflower, partridge pea
Dainty Sulphur	Dogweed, marigold, other asters
Gray Hairstreak	Raspilla-legumes, mallows, croton
Western Pygmy-Blue	Salt-bush, Russian thistle, lambs-quarters
Ceraunus Blue	Acacia, vetch, bean, snout bean
Reakirt's Blue	Acacia, vetch, bearded dalea, bundleflowers
Fatal Metalmark	Seepwillow, virgin's bower
Rounded Metalmark	Betony mistflower, crucita (<i>E. odoratum</i>)
Gulf Fritillary	Passionflower vine
Theona Checkerspot	Silverleaves, paintbrushes, cenizo after rain
Definite Patch	<i>Stenandrium</i> - shaggytuff
Bordered Patch	Sunflower, cowpen daisy, ragweed
Texas Crescent	Flame acanthus, shrimp plant, ruellia
Vesta Crescent	Hairy tube tongue; acanthus family
Phaon Crescent	Frogfruits
Question Mark	Hops, nettles, cedar elm, hackberries
American Lady	Everlastings, pussytoes, cudweeds
Painted Lady	Thistle, mallows, fiddleneck, salvia, lantana
Red Admiral	Nettles, false nettles, pellitories
Common Buckeye	Plantain, snapdragons, monkey flowers, flame acanthus
White Peacock	Water hysop, frogfruit
Common Mestra	Noseburn, <i>dalechampia</i>
Goatweed Leafwing	Goatweed, other crotons
Hackberry Emperor	Hackberry trees (<i>Celtus</i>)
Empress Leilia	Spiny hackberry
Tawny Emperor	Hackberry trees
Monarch	Milkweed / butterflyweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)
Queen	Milkweed / butterflyweed; i.e., spider antelope horns
Dorantes Longtail	Tick trefoils, duranta
Sickle-Winged Skipper	Various mallows
Funereal Duskywing	Legumes

Information compiled by Kleberg County Master Gardener, Sandy Chisholm