

# Weeds

## Your Key to Butterfly Success

**WHY WEEDS?** Butterflies feed and lay their eggs on many common weeds as well as on some prettier relatives. They also lay eggs on some prettier relatives of these weeds. Many also lay eggs on trees, shrubs, and vines.

### RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

FOR BEST RESULTS:

1. Plant a variety of larval food plants (including weeds!)
2. Plant attractive nectar plants for all seasons.
3. Do not use pesticides. The plant will absorb the pesticide and kill the caterpillar.
4. Go WILD! Keep an area of your yard untouched. If you rake everything up, trim everything back and mow everything to the ground—eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, and butterflies will not have a place to live over during the winter. A few butterflies, like the monarch, migrate south while most other butterflies remain here for the winter.
5. Invite a neighbor to begin butterfly planting with you. When others in the area create stations that interconnect, we create corridors that butterflies can travel. Corridors allow butterflies to travel according to their needs and to maintain their genetic diversity.

**WHY WEEDS?** Butterflies feed and lay their eggs on:

**cheeseweed** - Painted Lady, West Coast Lady, Gray Hairstreak & Common-checkered Skipper.

**dock** - Purplish Copper

**fennel (anise)** - Anise Swallowtail

**milkweed** - Monarch

**mustard** - Veined White, Sara Orangetip, & Cabbage White

**nettle** - Red Admiral & Satyr Comma

**pearly everlasting** - American Lady

**plantain** - Chalcedon Checkerspot & Buckeye

**sorrel** - Purplish Copper

**thistle** - Mylitta Crescent & Painted Lady

**grasses (unknown)** - CA Ringlet and Skippers

They also lay eggs on some prettier relatives of these weeds including **hollyhocks** (West Coast Lady), **sunflowers**, **asters** (Field Crescent, Northern Checkerspot, American Lady) and **snapdragons** (Buckeye).

Others lay eggs on trees, shrubs, and vines, such as **oak** (CA Sister, CA Hairstreak, Mournful Duskywing), **willows** (Mourning Cloak, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Lorquin's Admiral), **alders** (Western Tiger Swallowtail), **ceanothus** (CA Tortoiseshell, Spring Azure), **california coffeeberry** (Pale Swallowtail), **passion flower** (Gulf Fritillary), **pipevine** (pipevine swallowtail), **mistletoes** (Great Purple Hairstreak)