



Pollinator Scavenger Hunt

Join the Parker County Master Gardeners as we learn about the importance of conserving our native pollinators. Did you know that 75% of our crops depend on pollinating insects in order to produce our food? Did you know that 75% of our blooming plants require a pollinator to produce seeds for the next generation? Pollinating insects are absolutely vital in Parker County.

The honeybee may be declining, but there are literally thousands of species of native insects that pollinate plants in our county. Take a quick test and see if you recognize any pollinators in this grouping of insects?

Bees	Yes	No
Wasps	Yes	No
Butterflies	Yes	No
Moths	Yes	No
Flies	Yes	No
Ants	Yes	No
Beetles	Yes	No

If you answered yes to each of the insects above, then you're exactly right. An insect doesn't have to collect pollen in order to pollinate. It simply has to have business that takes it to the center of a flower. Our most effective pollinators are actively collecting pollen and nectar to feed themselves and their offspring, but there are hundreds of pollinating insects that are simply touching the flower as they go about their business.

The Pollinator Scavenger Hunt is a great way to learn about native pollinators, and a fun way to pass that information along to next generation. So pull out your phone or your camera, find a group of children, and have a scavenger hunt! Everything you need is right here in this brochure. The Pollinator Scavenger Hunt focuses on butterflies because they are safe and friendly for even the most curious children.

Butterflies can be found in butterfly gardens on any warm day. We recommend the following locations:

- Aledo/Annetta Community Projects
- Azle Central Park Demonstration Gardens
- Clark Gardens

- Chandor Gardens
- Extension Demonstration Gardens
- National Vietnam War Museum Gardens
- Weatherford Public Library Literary Gardens
- Willow Park Gardens

Each of these Gardens are filled with plants that thrive in our environment, including plants that specifically support our native pollinators. Most of these Gardens are Master Gardener Projects, and most are Certified Monarch Waystations. Please be careful of our public garden areas by staying on the paths as you search for insects. Please see our website for addresses and further information: www.pcmg-texas.org.

Rules

Pre-School Children

Young children can easily identify a butterfly based on size and color. For example: a monarch is a large, orange butterfly; and a cloudless sulfur is a small yellow one. If they can identify a size and color, then they win. If you can snap a picture for them to look at more closely, that just adds to the fun, and may allow them to match it to a picture.

Young School-Age Children

Young school-age children will be able to identify colors and designs on the larger butterflies so that they recognize the monarch or the swallowtails by name. If they are very still, they will be able to identify the smaller ones as they sit on flowers to eat. But the easiest by far is to snap a picture so they can compare the photo to the pictures. If they can put a name to three butterflies, they win.

Older School-Age Children

Older school-age children will be able to compare the butterflies they see to the pictures in the brochure and identify butterflies by name. They can also learn at least one fact about those butterflies, such as the months they are active in our county or the host plant where they lay eggs. If they can name four butterflies and remember one fact about each of them, they win.

Teens

For teenagers, there is no limit. Go ahead and surprise us! How many butterflies can you find? How many can you name? What can you tell us about them? Let this be a launch pad for your curiosity!

For Kids of All Ages

Thanks for participating in our learning adventure. We hope you have fun and learn something new. We also hope you'll invite your friends to come out and play with the pollinators!

Orange Butterflies



Monarch

Active: March, April, and October.
Host Plant: Native milkweed such as antelope horn milkweed, green milkweed, and butterfly weed.
Hint: This is our State Butterfly, and it spends its entire life migrating.



Queen

Active: May to October.
Host Plants: Milkweed and milkvines.
Hint: When wings are folded upright, this butterfly resembles the monarch with distinctive black stripes.



Gulf Fritillary

Active: May to November.
Host Plant: Passion vines.
Hint: Males are bright orange, while females are a duller brownish-orange color.



Question Mark

Active: Year-Round.
Host Plants: Elms, hackberries, and nettles.
Hint: When wings are folded upright, you will notice a small, metallic question mark on the underside of the upper wing.



American Lady

Active: March to November.
Host Plant: Everlastings such as yarrow, goldenrod, and celosia.
Hint: When wings are folded upright, this butterfly has two large eye-spots on the underside of the lower wing.



Pearl Crescent

Active: May to October.
Host Plant: Native asters.
Hint: This butterfly is very small, generally less than an inch in wing span.

Yellow Butterflies



Tiger Swallowtail

Active: April to November.

Host Plant: Ash and cherry trees.

Hint: Identified by the tiger-like stripes on the upper wings. Females have blue on the hind wings.



Cloudless Sulfur

Active: April to October.

Host Plants: Sennas and cassias.

Hint: Males are solid yellow. Females have a single dark spot on the upper wings.



Southern Dogface

Active: March to October.

Host Plants: Clovers, and related plants such as Queen Ann's lace, gomphrenia.

Hint: Look closely at the black pattern on the upper wings, and you will see a dog's profile.



Clouded Sulfur

Active: February to December.

Host Plants: Vetches and clovers.

Hint: Males have a solid black border on the wings. Females have a black border filled with yellow spots.



Sleepy Sulfer

Active: Year-Round.

Host Plants: Sennas.

Hint: You'll recognize them by their yellow-orange color.



Little Sulfur

Active: March to October.

Host Plant: Sennas.

Hint: The little sulfur is a very small butterfly, generally less than an inch wing span.

Black Butterflies



Black Swallowtail

Active: May to November.

Host Plant: Dill, fennel, and parsley.

Hint: Males have distinctive yellow spots. Females have paler, white spots.



Giant Swallowtail

Active: April to October.

Host Plant: Hercules club and rue.

Hint: Identified by the bright yellow coloring on the underside of the wings.



Pipevine Swallowtail

Active: April to November.

Host Plant: Pipevines.

Hint: Identified by the underside of the lower wing, which has a single row of large orange spots.



Red Spotted Purple

Active: May to October.

Host Plant: Poplar, cottonwood, weeping willow, black willow, black cherry, common pear, and willow oak trees.

Hint: Notice the red spots on tips of the upper wings.



Red Admiral

Active: Year-Round.

Host Plant: Nettles.

Hint: Lives in Parker County year-round. You'll find it looking for a drink of water and a sweet treat on warm winter days.



Funeral Dusky-Wing

Active: March to November.

Host Plant: Plants in the pea family such as lupines, clovers, and mesquite.

Hint: Identified by the distinctive white stripe on the lower wings.

Brown Butterflies



Variegated Fritillary

Active: Year-Round.

Host Plant: Purple pansy and violets.

Hint: Lives in Parker County year-round. You'll find it looking for a drink of water and a sweet treat on warm winter days.



Common Buckeye

Active: March to November.

Host Plant: Acanthus and snapdragons.

Hint: Identified by the large eye-spots on the upper and lower wings.



American Snout:

Active: Year-Round.

Host Plants: Hackberries.

Hint: Identified by its distinctive long snout.



Hackberry Emperor

Active: April to November.

Host Plant: Hackberries.

Hint: Identified by its distinctive white and black spots.

White Butterflies



Checkered White

Active: February to December.

Host Plants: Plants in the mustard family such as borage, flowering kale, and sweet alyssum.

Hint: Identified by the distinctive checkered spots on the upper wings.