How to Attract Butterflies to Your Garden







TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Dallas County

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Our mission is to educate the public about good horticultural practices

No Insecticides!

- Butterflies, moths and caterpillars are insects
- Hummingbirds eat insects
- Most birds feed caterpillars to their young

Are these Monarchs?







Which

is the

Monarch







Radio Tagging

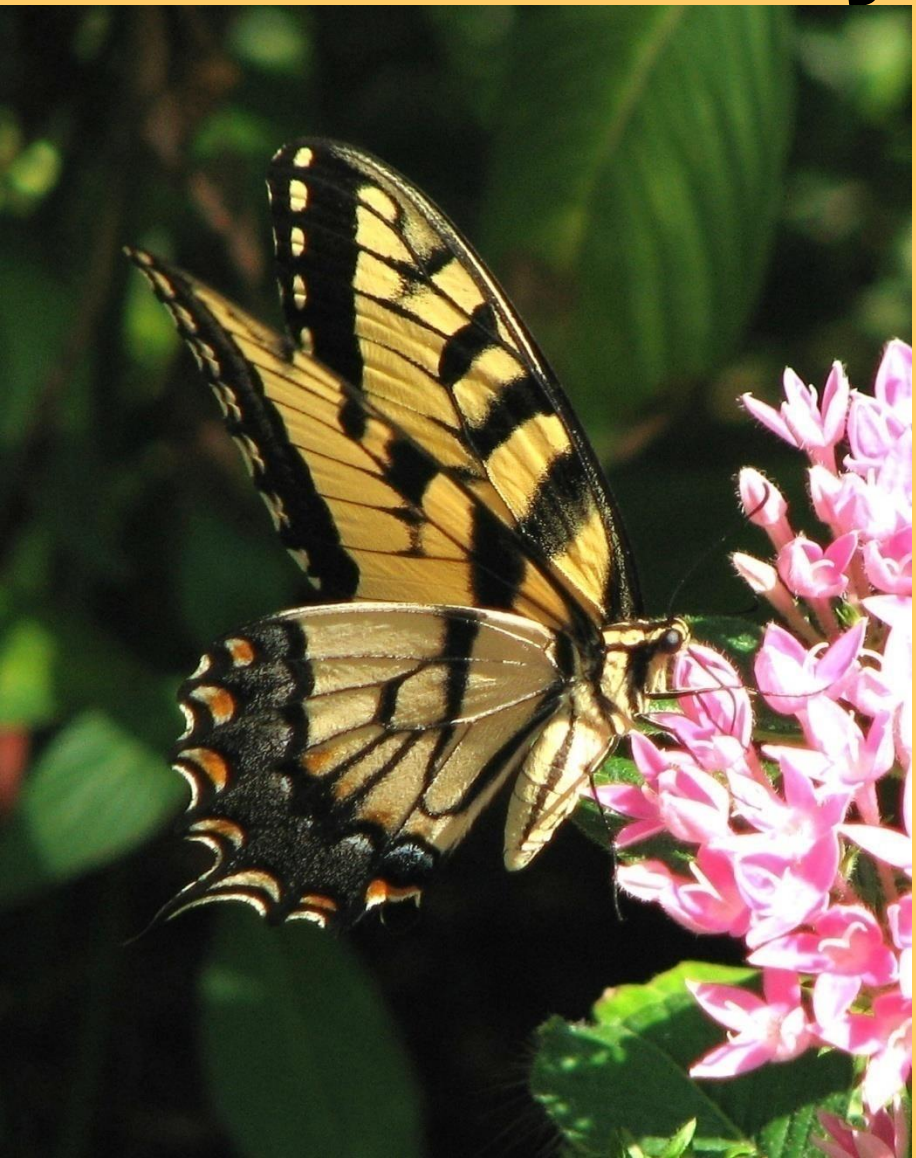
- Eyelash glue
- Bluetooth detects when nearby
- Project Monarch app



Butterfly Life Cycle

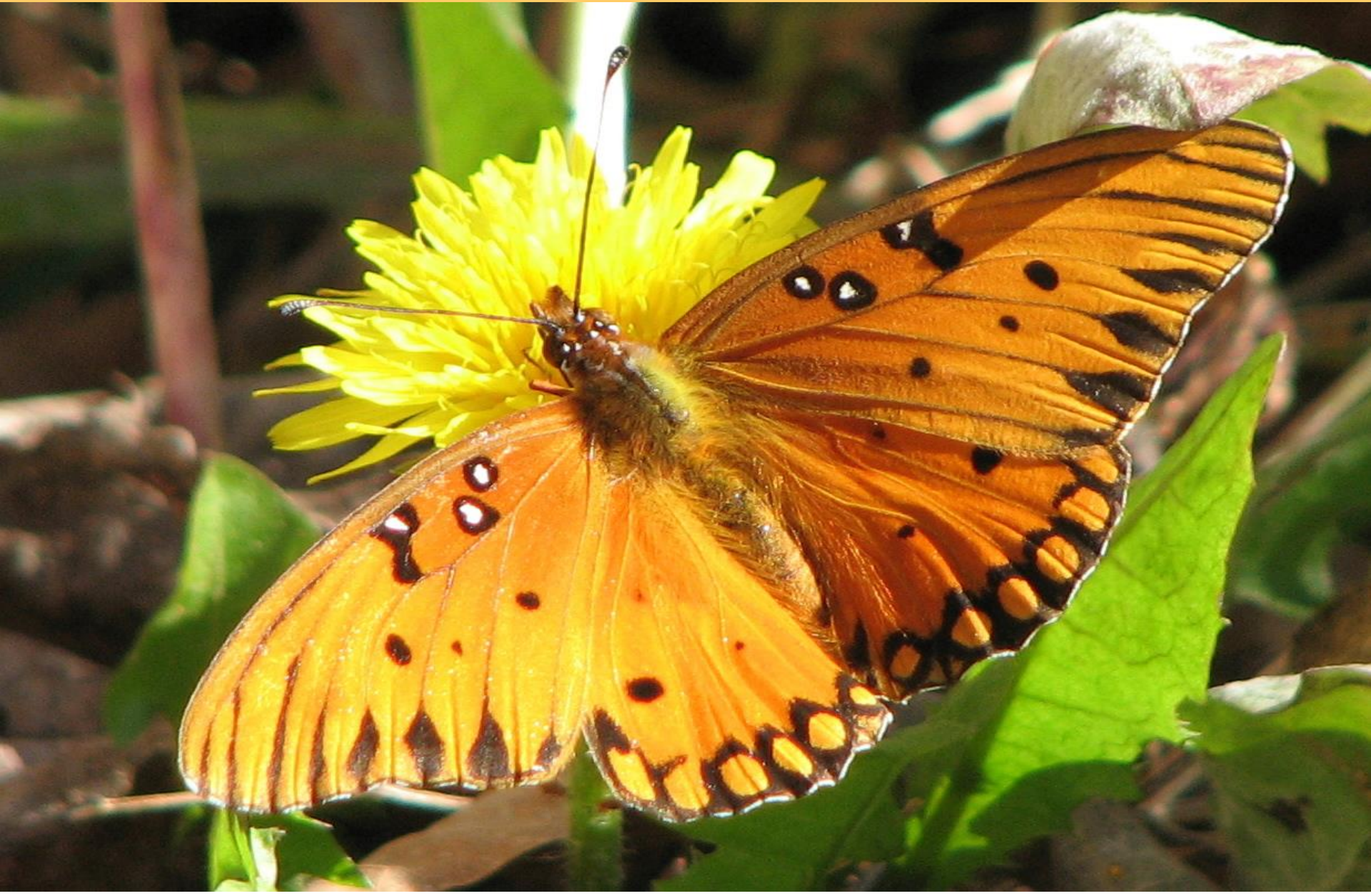
- Egg (ovum) – about 1 week
- Caterpillar (larva) – 2 weeks
- Chrysalis (pupa)– 2 weeks
- Adult (imago) – 2 weeks
  - Monarchs that migrate live 7-8 months

Adult Beverage or Baby Food?





Adult Beverage



Nectar Flowers



Penta: Tiger Swallowtail



Penta: Tiger Swallowtail



Penta

- ***Penta lanceolata:*** **the tall one**
- **ANNUAL**
- **Sun to partial shade**
- **Prolific bloomer**
- **Loves the heat**
- **Drought tolerant**
- **Great in pots and can move inside for winter**



Lantana: Black Swallowtail



Lantana

- Blooms summer and fall
- Thrives in sun and heat
- Drought tolerant
- Needs well-drained soil
- Tender perennial
- Many colors and sizes
- Easy to find in stores
- Can grow in pots or hanging baskets



Greg's Mist: Queen



Gregg's Mistflower

Conoclinium greggii

S-PS, L, D, 3'

Male butterflies

Monarchs

Spreads!!!!



Buttonbush: Red Admiral

Cephalanthus occidentalis

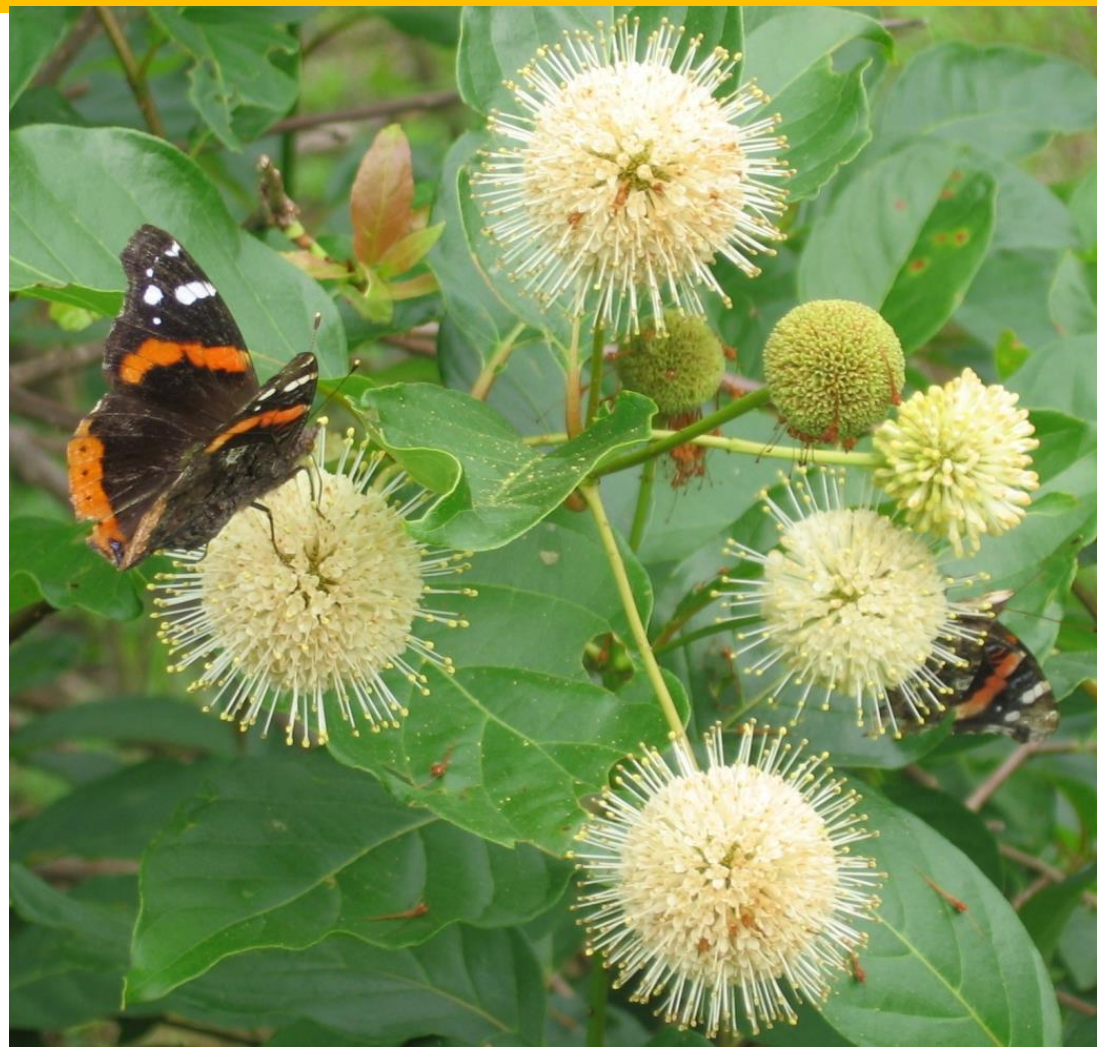
S-PS, 6-12’, D

Medium to wet

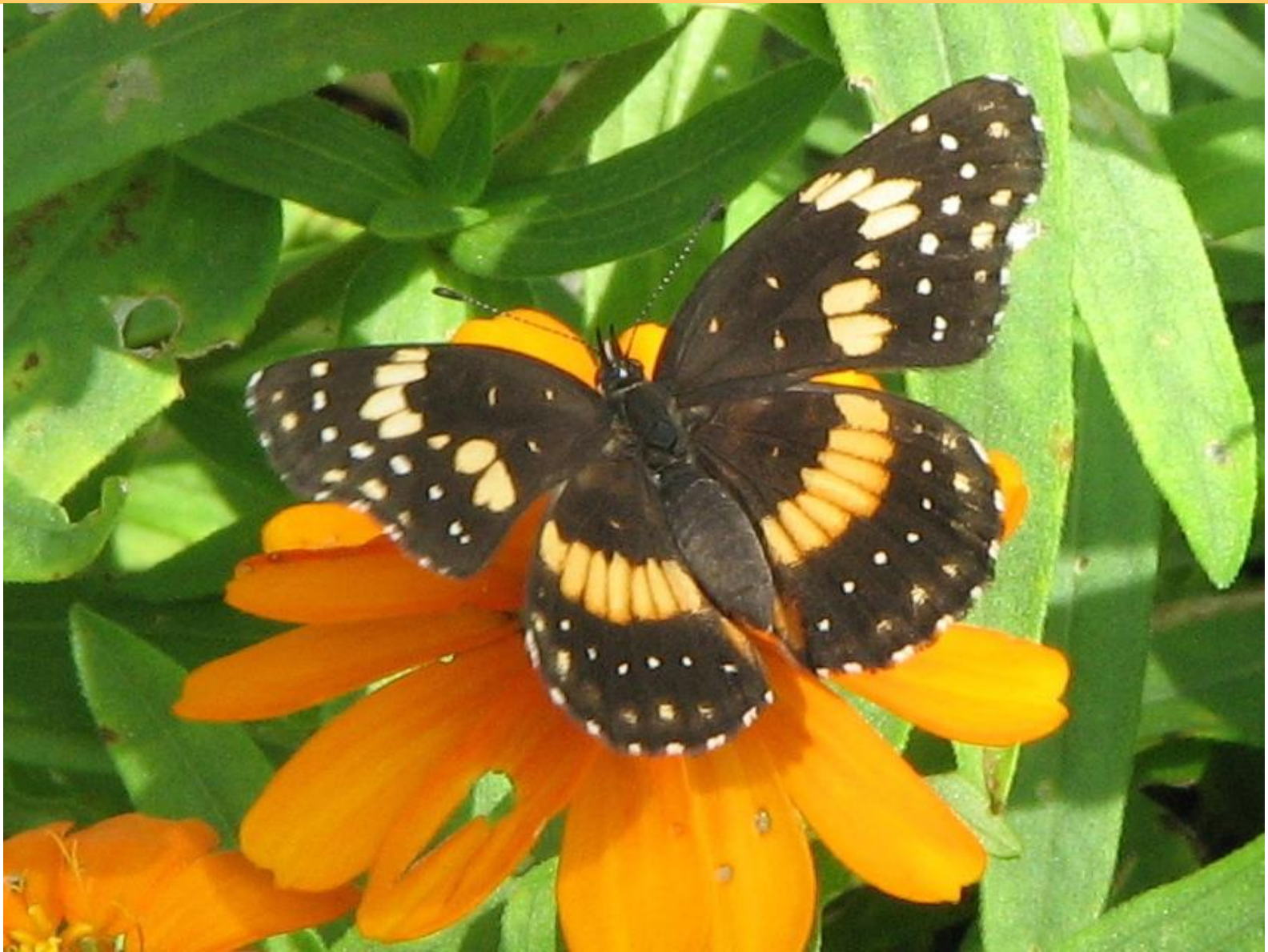
Magnet for bees & butterflies

June- Sept

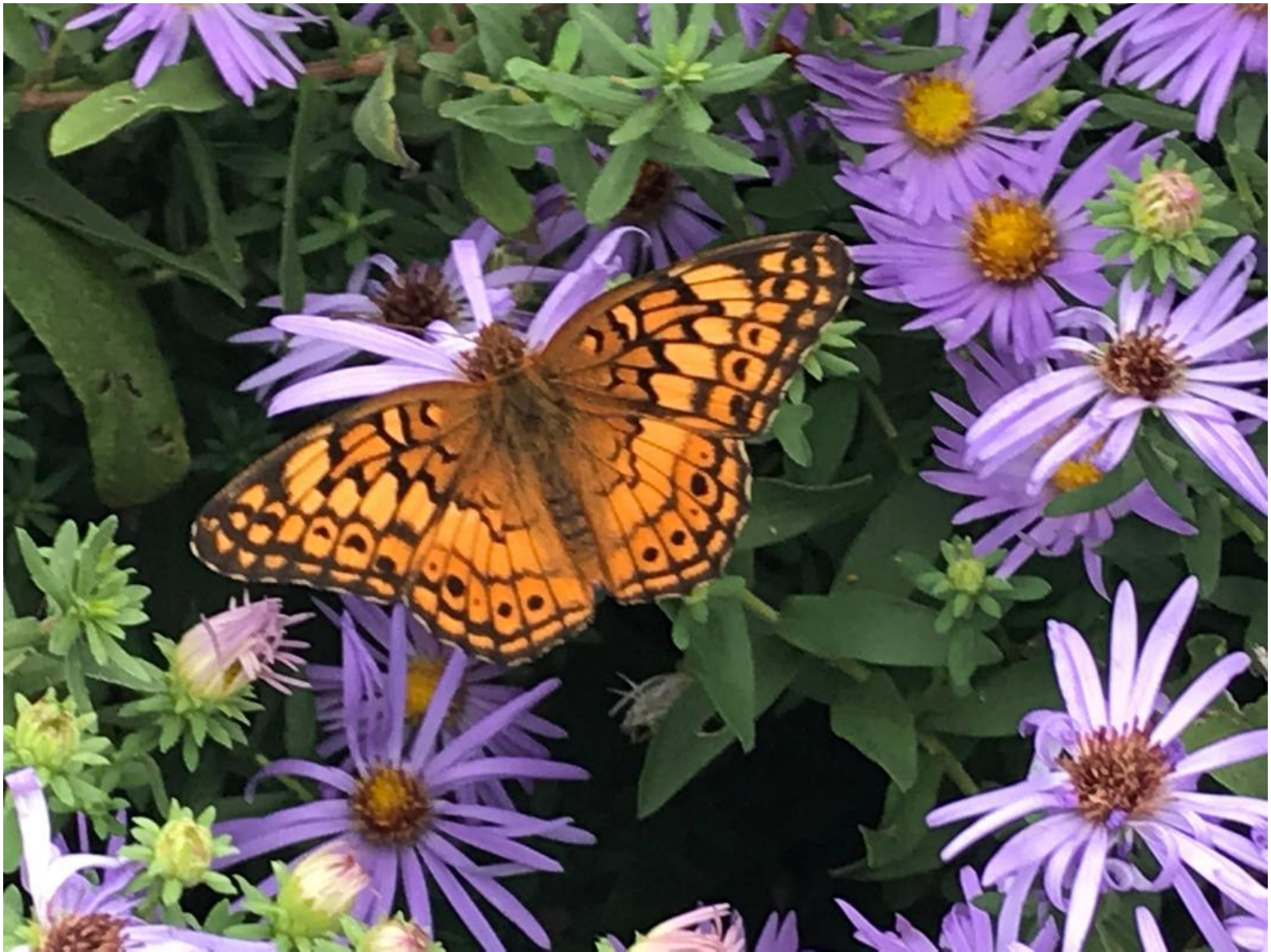
Poisonous



Zinnias: Bordered Patch



Fall Aster: Variated Fritillary



Fall Aster

Aster oblongifolium

S-PS, LW

6-30” tall x 1-4’

Bees &, bf use it to stock up for winter

Cut back in June to keep compact



Frostweed

SH-PS, LW, 2x6’

Unique display when frozen

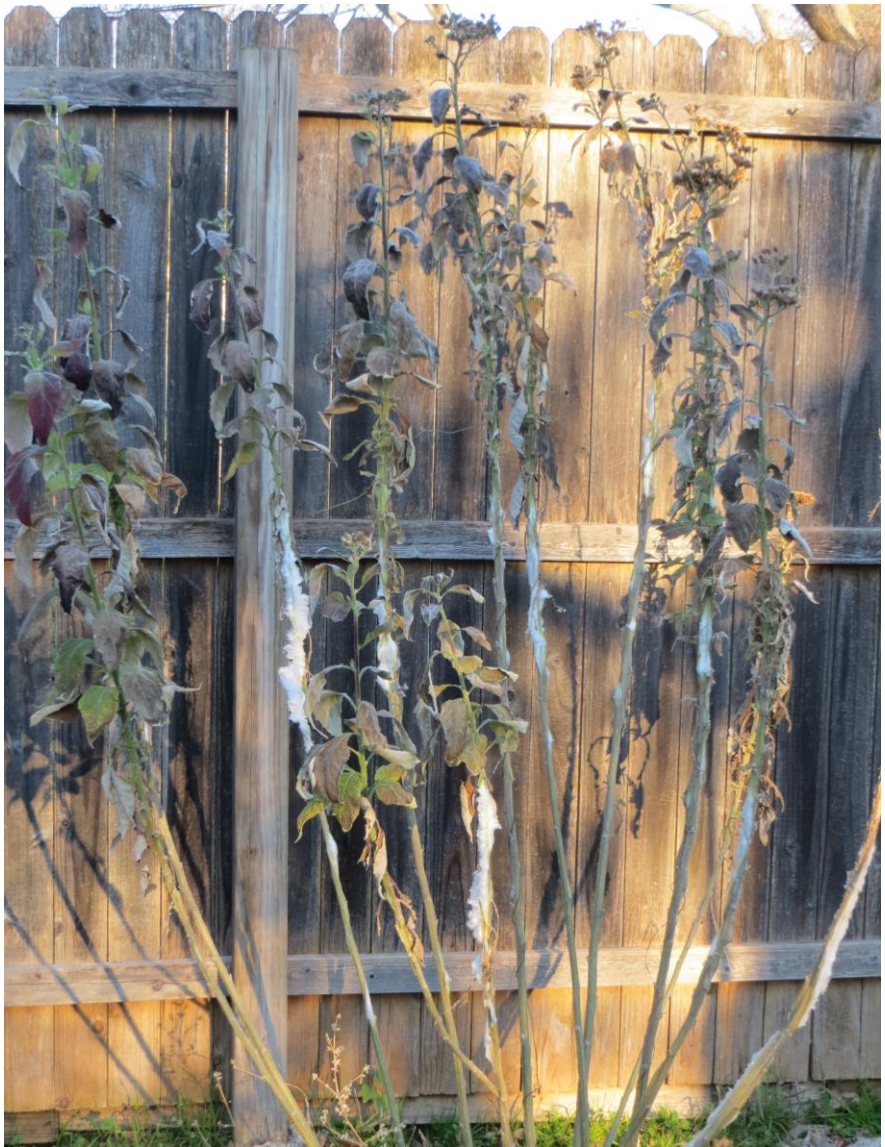
Red Bull for bf’s

Cut back 1/3 in June

Spreads

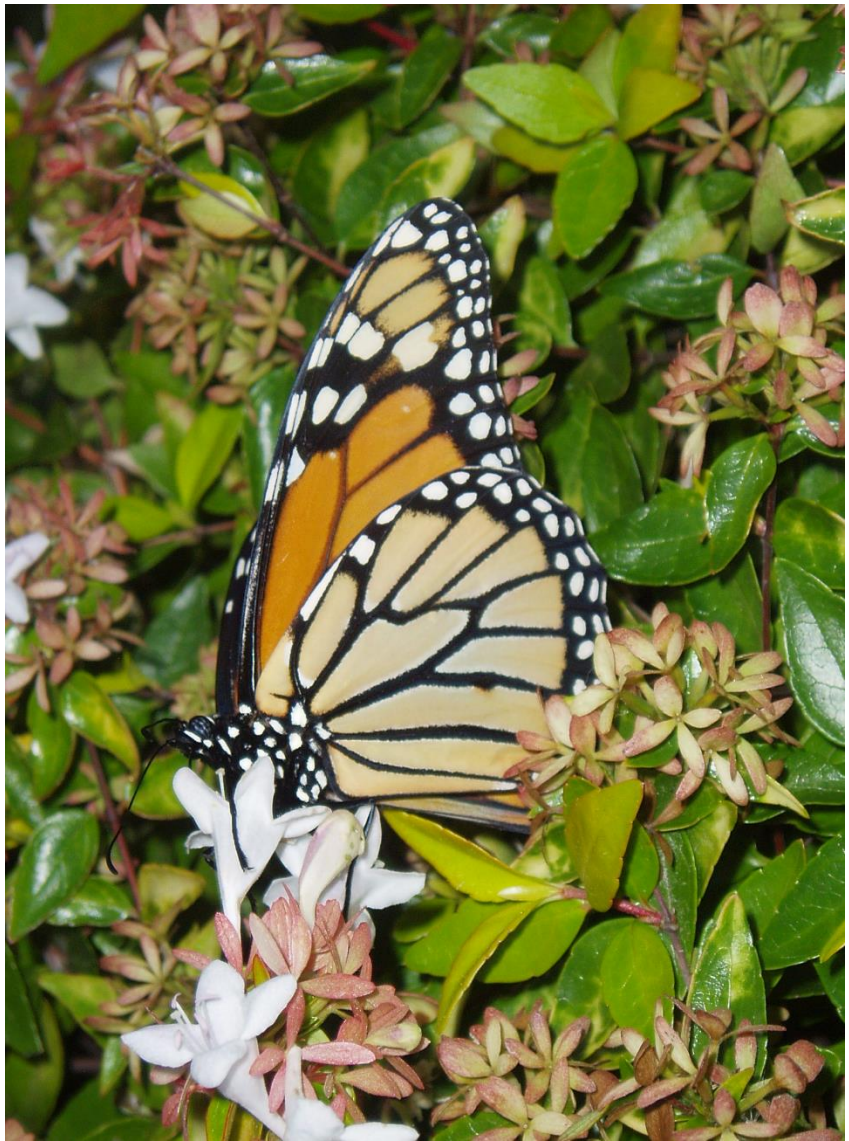


Freezing Frostweed





Abelia



Sunflowers



But not



Roses



Begonias

Baby Food: Host Plants

- Extremely picky eaters
- Caterpillars will eat the leaves and the flowers
- You must be willing to sacrifice the plant

Milkweed: Monarchs & Queens



Green Milkweed
Asclepias viridis

S, LW, 1-2’, D

Host for Monarch & Queen butterflies

Grow from seeds but not easily



Dill, Fennel, Parsley: Black Swallowtails





Dill, Fennel & Parsley: Black Swallowtails



Fennel and Dill

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)

PERENNIAL herb

Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)

ANNUAL herb

- **Both are lacy plants**
- **Plant in the early spring in full sun**
- **Can grow in pots**

Caterpillars: Eat themselves out of house and home





Passion Vine:
Gulf Fritillaries



Passion Vine: Gulf Fritillaries





Passion Vine

- *Passiflora* – many species
- ‘Maypop’ is a popular variety here
- Fast growing vine
- Gulf fritillary caterpillars can consume most of the foliage but it will grow back

Butterfly Gardening

- No insecticides
- Continuous blooms
  - Nectar plants
  - Host plants
- Plant it and they will come!

The Dallas County Master Gardener Association exists to help you.

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