

## Butterflies in the Botanic Gardens



The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens has around 100 different butterfly species, with around 150 different species that occur within the Mackay region. This number is due to the fact that the region encompasses coastal and high altitude forests, providing a range of different habitats for flora and fauna. The different types of butterflies that can be found through the gardens range in size and colours from the strikingly blue Ulysses and Cairns Birdwing butterflies to the smaller, dainty species such as the Plumbago Blue and Varied Eggfly butterflies.

### What butterflies can be found in the Gardens?

Here are just a few of the butterflies that can be seen in the Botanic Gardens...



*Papilio ulysses* (Ulysses Swallowtail)



*Graphium agamemnon* (Spotted Green Triangle)



*Tirumala hamata* (Blue Tiger)



*Leptotes plinius* (Plumbago Blue)



*Graphium sarpedon* (Blue Triangle)



*Hypolimnas bolina* (Varied Eggfly)

Become a Lepidopterist for the day! Butterflies are active during daylight hours, so find a spot quietly in the gardens along the pathway and see how many different butterflies you can count. Carefully investigate leaves for butterfly eggs or developing chrysalis, but be careful not to touch them or the butterflies as they are very delicate.



## Attracting Butterflies to your garden



If you are interested in attracting local butterfly species to your garden, you will need to grow the right food plants for the caterpillars.

Each butterfly only has a few specific plants that their caterpillars feed on. These plants are called host plants. The list below provides you with some of our local butterfly species and the plants to grow to feed their caterpillars. Be prepared for the caterpillars to feed on these plants, and you will be rewarded with some stunning butterflies visiting your garden. Most of these plant species can be readily purchased through the nursery trade.

### Caterpillar Food Plants of Mackay Butterflies

Butterfly Common Name	Butterfly Species	Host Plant Scientific Name	Plant Common Name
Blue Triangle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i>	Three veined Cryptocarya
		<i>Neolitsea dealbata</i>	White Bollywood
Green-spotted triangle	<i>Graphium agamemnon</i>	<i>Fitzalania heteropetala</i>	Orange Annona
Orchard Swallowtail	<i>Papilio aegeus</i>	<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	Lime Berry
		<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Scrub Wilga
Fuscous Swallowtail	<i>Papilio fuscus</i>	<i>Murraya ovatifoliolata</i>	Native Mock Orange
		<i>Clausena brevistyla</i>	Clausena
Ulysses	<i>Papilio ulysses</i>	<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Corkwood, Pink Evodia
		<i>Melicope bonwickii</i>	Yellow Corkwood
Cairns Birdwing	<i>Ornithoptera euphorion</i>	<b><i>Aristolochia acuminata</i> **</b>	<b>Native Dutchman's Pipe</b>
Lemon Migrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	<i>Cassia brewsteri</i>	Leichardt's Bean
		<i>Cassia tomentella</i>	Velvet Bean
Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala hamata</i>	<i>Secamone elliptica</i>	Secamone
Swamp Tiger	<i>Danaus affinis</i>	<i>Cynanchum carnosum</i>	Mangrove Milkpod
Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>	<i>Parsonsia straminea</i>	Common Silkpod
Australian Rustic	<i>Cupha prosope</i>	<i>Scolopia braunii</i>	Flintwood
Varied Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>	<i>Pipturus argenteus</i>	Native Mulberry
		<i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i>	Love Flower
Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	<i>Heteropogon triticeus</i>	Giant Spear Grass
		<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
		<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass
Double Spotted Line Blue	<i>Nacaduba biocellata</i>	<i>Acacia disparrima</i>	Southern Salwood

**\*\*A native plant, however not local to our bioregion.**

**For more information phone the Botanic Gardens on 4952 7300 or visit the website [mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au](http://mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au)**

