



HortPark  
the gardening hub

# BUTTERFLY GARDEN IN HORTPARK

## Highlights

- Butterfly watching opportunities to observe these winged beauties in their natural habitats
  - Discover what kinds of plants attract butterflies

Walking time: 30 minutes



Share your love for nature and animals at  
**#NParksBuzz #AnimalBuzzSG**



## Tips for a safe and enjoyable trip

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- Dress comfortably and put on suitable footwear
- Wear a hat and apply sunscreen
- Bring along bottled water to stay hydrated
- Appreciate the plants, take nothing but photos
- Smoking is not allowed
- Refrain from plucking the fruits or picking fallen fruits

More information on plants can also be found on <http://www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb>

### **HortPark opening hours:**

6 am – 11 pm daily

### **HortPark address**

33 Hyderabad Road (off Alexandra Road) Singapore 119578

Tel: 64715601

Email: [NPARKS\\_HortPark@nparks.gov.sg](mailto:NPARKS_HortPark@nparks.gov.sg)

Website: <http://www.nparks.gov.sg/hortpark>

## How to get to HortPark

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### **By MRT and Bus**

#### ***From MRT Station***

#### ***Buses Available to HortPark***

Labrador Park Station (CC27)	51, 61, 93, 97, 100, 166, 963
HarbourFront Station (NE1 / CC29)	61, 93, 97, 100, 166, 963
Queenstown Station (EW19) / Bugis Station (EW12 / DT14)	51
Commonwealth Station (EW20)	100

### **By Car**

151 carpark lots are available at HortPark (wheelchair-friendly lots are also available).

Park opening hours are from 6 am to 11 pm.

17 carpark lots are available from 11 pm to 6am.

# Map of HortPark & location of Butterfly Garden:



## LEGEND

<b>P</b> Carpark	<b>i</b> Visitor Services Centre	<b>■</b> Ornamental Zone
<b>P</b> Coach Bay	<b>☀</b> Lawn	<b>■</b> Exploratory Zone
<b>P</b> Motorcycle Lot	<b>♂♀</b> Restrooms	<b>■</b> Community Gardening Zone
<b>P</b> Bicycle Bay	<b>☂</b> Shelter	<b>■</b> Tranquillity Zone
<b>☕</b> Food & Beverage	<b>📱</b> Vending Machine	
<b>🏠</b> First Aid	<b>👤</b> Playground	
<b>AED</b> Automated External Defibrillator		

## GATE ACCESS HOURS

From 6 am to 11 pm daily

- A** Main Entrance
- B** Alexandra Technopark
- C** Alexandra Terrace
- D** Alexandra Link to Kent Ridge Park
- E** 100K Pasir Panjang Road



# How Butterflies Help the Environment

Butterflies are helpful day time pollinators. Butterflies collect pollen on their bodies as they feed on flowers and carry it to other plants, helping to fertilise the flowers and form fruits.

The various stages of a butterfly's life cycle are a food source for a variety of animals such as birds, spiders and lizards.

Butterflies are sensitive to climate and habitat changes. They are good indicators of the air quality in the environment.



Plain Tiger  
(*Danaus chrysippus chrysippus*)

## Butterfly Garden in HortPark

A garden is never complete without lively interaction between people and animals. This Butterfly Garden is created with the primary objective of providing an environment for, and opportunities to raise awareness of, these flying jewels.

HortPark's Butterfly Garden is home to a variety of butterfly species. Take a walk in the garden and see if you can spot them.

HortPark has a diverse selection of plants and pockets of habitats where the butterflies thrive and flourish. Other than the Butterfly Garden, take a stroll and explore the other theme gardens and be sure to keep a look out for these flying beauties amidst the greenery.



Lime Butterfly  
(*Papilio demoleus malayanus*)



Common Rose  
(*Pachliota aristolochiae astertis*)



Butterfly Garden



Tawny Coster  
(*Acraea terpsicore*)



Caterpillars feeding on a host plant

## Tips for Butterfly Watching

It is fascinating to observe butterfly behaviours and different habits such as feeding, basking, puddling, laying eggs, courting and mating in their natural environment. However it often takes much time and patience. Here are five beginner tips for butterfly watching.

1. Butterflies are cold blooded and they rely on the sun's heat to warm their bodies to give them energy. Therefore, the best time to observe butterflies at peak activity is on a bright sunny day.
2. Keep a close watch around nectar and host plants. Butterflies feed on flowering plants, and they fly around the host plants to find a place to lay eggs.
3. Look out for puddles, animal dung, as well as rotten fruits on the ground, where there might be butterflies puddling. Puddling refers to butterflies feeding on salts and minerals from the soil, which they need for reproduction. This behaviour is mostly seen in male butterflies.
4. Butterflies are active and skittish. Approach a butterfly slowly without any sudden movements. Shadows cast over butterflies can frighten them.
5. Observe the butterfly's size, colours, flight pattern and markings on the wings and each species' habits. Soon, you will be able to identify many different butterfly species and understand their unique habits.

# Commonly Seen Butterflies in HortPark



## Mottled Emigrant

(*Catopsilia pyranthe pyranthe*)

It is a common sight to see this butterfly on a warm and sunny day. Mottled Emigrant can be found in urban areas. One possible reason is that its host plant is grown in most parks and gardens.

Photo credit: Nur Liyana Zolpakar



## Tawny Coster

(*Acraea terpsicore*)

On a warm and sunny day, the Tawny Coster can be seen, basking under the sun and flying gracefully in the garden.

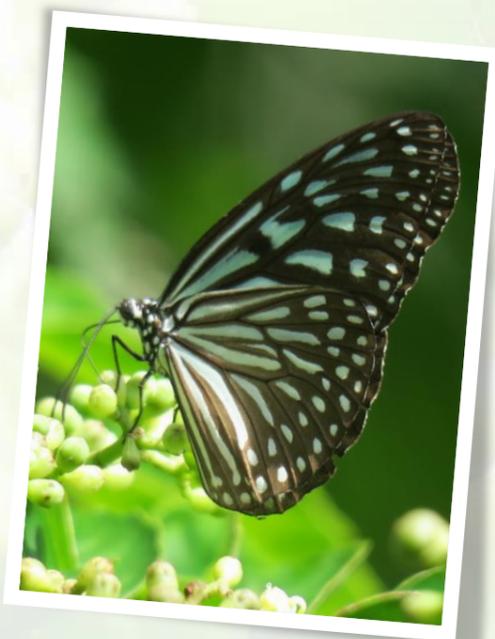
Photo credit: Nur Liyana Zolpakar



## Common Grass Yellow

(*Eurema hecabe contubernalis*)

The Common Grass Yellow is one of the most commonly seen butterflies in Singapore. It can be spotted fluttering in many of our green spaces because its host plants are widely planted in parks and gardens. This species has the habit of puddling on damp grounds. Photo credit: Khew Sin Khoon



## Blue Glassy Tiger

(*Ideopsis vulgaris macrina*)

The Blue Glassy Tiger is common in Singapore and mostly seen in the coastal mangrove habitat found in Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and Pasir Ris Park. This species looks similar to the Dark Glassy Tiger,

and it is difficult to tell them apart, especially when they are in flight. The Blue Glassy Tiger has a dark bar on the forewing, which the Dark Glassy Tiger does not have.

Photo credit: Sahun Adam

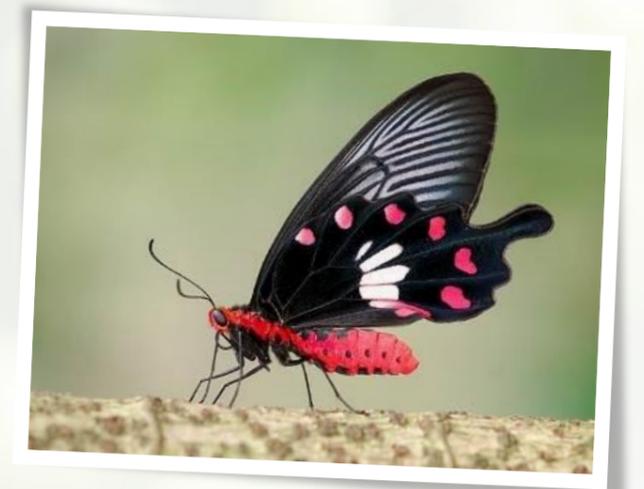


## Common Birdwing

(*Troides helena cerberus*)

One of Singapore's biggest butterflies, its large wings measure 14 cm, allowing it to fly over great distances and heights. It can be identified by its bright yellow and black wings and is most often seen from November to February.

Photo credit: Khew Sin Khoon



## Common Rose

(*Pachliopta aristolochiae asteris*)

While it looks similar to the female Common Mormon, the Common Rose has a distinctive bright red abdomen. The colour and pattern of its wings serve as a warning to potential predators that it does not taste good.

Photo credit: Anthony Wong



### Grass Demon

(*Udaspes folus*)

Many of its host plants are from the Zingerberaceae family commonly grown in parks and home gardens. The Grass Demon is known for its quick and darting flight habits. Look for the host plants and leaf shelters made by the caterpillars at the edges of the leaves.

Photo credit: Nur Liyana Zolpakar



### Lime Butterfly

(*Papilio demoleus malayanus*)

Plants from the Citrus family are a host for the Lime Butterfly. It is often seen in forested and urban areas and is a strong flyer that moves about rapidly. But during a hot day, the Lime Butterfly can be found resting among shrubs with its wings opened to sunbathe. It opens its wings to absorb the sun for energy, like a solar panel!

Photo credit: Nur Liyana Zolpakar



### Plain Tiger

(*Danaus chrysippus chrysippus*)

The Plain Tiger can be easily spotted in the garden. It is usually found in close proximity to its host plants, the Blood Flower (*Asclepias curassavica*) and Crown Flower (*Calotropis gigantea*).

Photo credit : Nur Liyana Zolpakar



### Lemon Emigrant

(*Catopsilia pomona pomona*)

With a wingspan of 5 cm, the Lemon Emigrant is a medium-sized species and is commonly seen in Singapore. It has a rapid but irregular flight pattern, visiting flowers for nectar and even

puddling on wet grounds. This species lays its eggs singly on the surface of the leaves of its host plants.

Photo credit: Nur Liyana Zolpakar



### Painted Jezebel

(*Delias hyparete metarete*)

The Painted Jezebel can be easily identified by its bright contrasting colours of white, yellow and red. The front of its wings is yellow, the top is white and the back is orange with distinct black veins. These bright colours are believed to serve as a warning to potential predators. The Painted Jezebel is usually seen fluttering higher up among tree canopies.

Photo credit: Nur Liyana Zolpakar



Male

Female

### Common Mormon

(*Papilio polytes romulus*)

It is common to see this species fluttering through parks and gardens. It is sexually dimorphic, which means males and females of this species appear different in their colours and patterns.

Photo credit: Anthony Wong



Bush Pentas  
(*Rondeletia leucophylla*)



Candle Bush  
(*Senna alata*)



Tawny Coster caterpillars



Tawny Coster  
(*Acraea terpsicore*)

## Plant Selection

The focus of a butterfly garden usually centres around the butterflies. However, the true essence of a successful and sustainable garden really depends critically on the careful selection and balance of suitable host and nectar plants. These are some plants that can be found in the Butterfly Garden in HortPark.

## Host Plants

To attract butterflies, we need to support the young. A host plant is one that butterflies lay eggs on and caterpillars feed on. Although most caterpillars feed on the leaves of plants, there are some that feed on flowers and flower buds as well. Leaves that have chewing marks and frass on top of them are an indicator that a caterpillar is close by. Frass refers to caterpillar's poop. Look out for butterflies that fly near their host plants. They are finding the perfect spot to lay eggs on the plant.

## Nectar Plants

A nectar plant produces the nectar for the adult butterflies to feed on. Flowers not only give the garden a pop of colour, but the tubular and nectar filled flowers are also a favourite amongst butterflies. Flowers vary in shape, colour and nectar content. Butterflies are attracted to nectar-rich flowers. Butterflies also really like flowers with tubular shapes since butterflies have proboscis that they use like a straw to drink nectar. Watch as the butterflies flit from flower to flower in the garden.

# Host Plants



**Blood Flower** (*Asclepias curassavica*)

Host Plant for: Plain Tiger

Photo credit: Arthur Ng



**Caricature Plant** (*Graptophyllum pictum* cultivars)

Host plant for: Autumn Leaf



**Lime** (*Citrus x aurantiifolia*)

Host plant for: Common Mormon, Lime Butterfly, Great Mormon



**Butterfly Ginger** (*Hedychium coronarium*)

Host plant for: Grass Demon

Photo credit: Nur Liyana Zolpakar



**Curry Leaf Tree** (*Murraya koenigii*)

Host plant for: Common Mormon

Photo credit: Arthur Ng



**Red-Leaf Breynia** (*Breynia disticha* 'Roseo-picta')

Host plant for: Common Grass Yellow



**Candle Bush** (*Senna alata*)

Host plant for: Lemon Emigrant, Mottled Emigrant,  
Common Grass Yellow

Photo credit: Arthur Ng



**Dutchman's Pipe** (*Aristolochia acuminata*)

Host plant for: Common Birdwing, Common Rose



**Torch Ginger** (*Etlingera elatior*)

Host plant for: Chocolate Demon

Photo credit: Boo Chih Min

# Nectar Plants



**Bush Pentas**  
(*Arachnothryx leucophylla*)



**False Heather**  
(*Cuphea hyssopifolia*)  
Photo credit: Pauline Tay



**Ixora**  
(*Ixora* species & cultivars)  
Photo credit: Arthur Ng



**Compact Porterweed**  
(*Stachytarpheta* 'Red Compacta')  
Photo credit: Vicky Lim



**Indian Snakeweed**  
(*Stachytarpheta indica*)  
Photo credit: Jennie Tang



**Pagoda Flower**  
(*Clerodendrum paniculatum*)