

2011 Florida School Garden Competition ENTRY FORM

School Blue Lakes Elementary
Teacher(s) & Grade(s) involved in garden program
Ms. Natalie Garcia - 4th & 5th grade (Gifted Program)
Ms. Nagi Rodriguez - 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade (Gifted Program)
Contact Person Nagi Rodriguez
Time contact person can be reached 8:30 - 3:20
Phone (305) 271-7411 Fax (305) 279 5103
Address (please include city and zip code) 9250 Southwest 52nd Terrace
Miami, FL 33165
Email address nrod1115@daledschools.net

CATEGORY (Please mark only one)

☐ SINGLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by one class only)

Number of students in class and grade _____

☒ MULTIPLE CLASS GARDEN (Garden used by more than one class or grade,
but not by the entire school)

Number of students involved in the garden and grades _____

☐ ENTIRE SCHOOL GARDEN (Garden that is used by all grade levels at the
school)

Number of students involved in the garden and grade _____

TYPE of school garden that you use with your students. (Please mark only one)

_____ Vegetable

_____ Flower

_____ Combination vegetable/flower

☒ Other, please specify vegetable / butterfly

Please indicate the number of hours a week, on average, your students spend in the garden. 6-8 hrs.

1. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in prior to gardening.

☒ Planning the garden

☒ Preparing the garden

☒ Designing the garden

☒ Choosing plants

☒ Other, Fundraising, applying for grants

2. Please mark all the activities that your students participate in while in the garden.

☒ Planting

☒ Watering

☒ Weeding

☒ Observing

☒ Recording

☒ Harvesting

_____ Playing

☒ Sitting

_____ Fertilizing

☒ Experimenting

_____ Other, _____

3. Please indicate the percentage of time, on average, that you used the garden as an instructional tool in your classroom. 25 %

4. Please mark the subject area(s) into which you have incorporated school gardening. Check all that apply.

_____ Math

_____ Science

☒ Social Studies

_____ History

☒ Health/Nutrition

☒ Language Arts

_____ Music

_____ Physical Ed.

☒ Environmental Ed.

_____ Ethics (responsibility and nurturing)

_____ Other, please specify _____

5. Please indicate the number of years that a school garden has been part of your curriculum. 18

6. Please indicate the types of volunteers that have helped you and your students with the garden.

_____ Master Gardeners

_____ Senior citizens

☒ Parents

_____ University students

_____ Garden club members

_____ 4-H members

☒ High school students

_____ FFA

☒ Older students at your school

☒ Other, please specify community volunteers

7. Please indicate the source(s) of information used to assist in the incorporation of school gardening into your school's curriculum. Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Extension service | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H education materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher in-service training | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifelab |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal knowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Gardener training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational journals/publications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friends/volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Gardening Association's Growlab/Growing ideas newsletter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____ | |

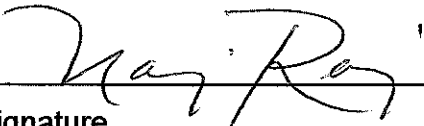
8. Please indicate the types of educational material(s) used in the classroom to support the use of school gardening in the curriculum.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Library books | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer software |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Videos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filmstrips | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Textbooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Experiments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade books | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gardening magazines and catalogs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <u>Next Generation Sunshine state standards</u> | |

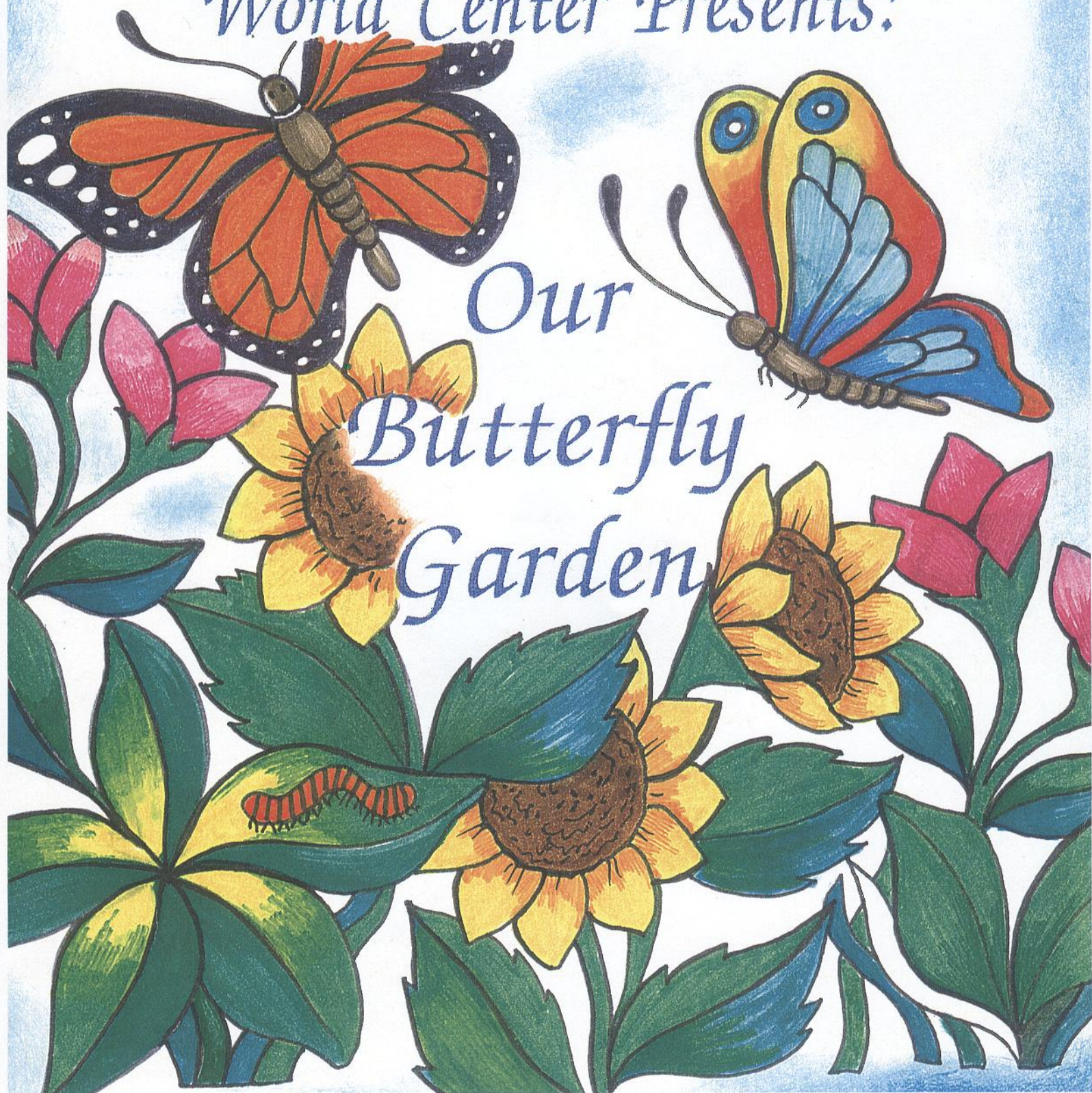
Please read and sign below

By submitting the same you acknowledge and agree that the University of Florida (and Walt Disney World Co.) may reproduce the same, and all materials may be displayed (in part or in whole) at the 2012 Epcot® International Flower and Garden Festival and for other promotional materials. Such presentation materials (and School Garden packets) will NOT be returned to you (they will become the property of the University of Florida and Walt Disney World Co.) Finally, you acknowledge and agree that should your school be selected as a winner under the competition, then to the extent any of the photographs or materials submitted contain the names of likeness of students, teachers and/or others, you will be required to have adult individuals sign (and the parents/guardians of such students) sign consent/release forms provided by us so that we can display those photographs or materials concerning your winning garden. Such requirement would be a condition of your accepting the award.

I have read and understand the above.

<u></u>	<u>3/9/11</u>
Signature	Date

Blue Lakes Elementary
World Center Presents:



Educational Relevance

Blue Lakes Elementary School is host to an Autism Intensive Communications Academy, a Title 1 school. The school's demographics are made up of regular education students, gifted students, and a large population of students with special needs. Aside, we have a significantly large population of low income families. In addition, we have an academy within our school that provides students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the education and resources they need to achieve their individual education goals in a school setting. Our school garden is an outdoor extension to the classroom. The garden is a priceless resource for all students. The school garden is made up of a butterfly garden and a vegetable garden. Overall, both are used to augment classroom studies with pragmatic learning, stimulate social interaction, develop a love of nature, facilitate cultural exchange, and much more.

The teachers at Blue Lakes Elementary incorporate the garden into their Reading, Language Arts, Writing, Science, Math and Social Studies curriculum. Interdisciplinary learning thrives when these subjects are emphasized using the garden as a resource. Our garden provides the necessary components for students to master the New Florida Sunshine State Standards. The following standards have been covered this year with activities and assignments that incorporated the school garden.

Reading/Language Arts and Writing: LA.4.3.1.1, LA.4.3.1.2, LA.4.3.1.3, LA.4.3.2.1, LA.4.3.2.2, LA.4.3.2.3, LA.4.3.3.1, LA.4.3.3.2, LA.4.3.3.3, LA.4.3.3.4, LA.4.3.4.1, LA.4.3.4.2, LA.4.3.4.3, LA.4.3.4.4, LA.4.3.4.4, LA.4.3.4.5, LA.4.3.4.6, LA.4.3.5.1, LA.4.4.1.1, LA.4.5.1.1, LA.4.5.2.1, LA.5.1.6, LA.5.1.6.11, LA.5.5.1.1, LA.2.1.4.5, LA.2.1.4.6, LA.2.1.6.1, LA.2.1.6.2, LA.2.1.6.3, LA.2.1.6.4, LA.2.1.6.5, LA.2.1.6.6, LA.2.1.6.8, LA.2.1.6.9, LA.2.1.7.3, LA.2.1.7.4, LA.2.1.7.6, LA.2.2.1.6, LA.2.2.2.1, LA.2.2.2.2, LA.2.2.2.3, LA.2.2.2.4, LA.2.3.1.1, LA.2.3.1.2, LA.2.3.1.3, LA.2.3.2.1, LA.2.3.2.2, LA.2.3.3.1, LA.2.3.3.2, LA.2.3.3.3, LA.2.3.3.4, LA.2.3.4.1, LA.2.3.4.2, LA.2.3.4.3, LA.2.3.2.2, LA.2.3.4.5, LA.2.3.4.6, LA.2.3.5.1, LA.2.4.1.1, LA.2.4.1.2, LA.2.4.2.1, LA.2.4.2.2, LA.2.4.2.3, LA.2.4.2.4, LA.2.4.2.5, LA.2.5.1.1, LA.2.5.2.1, LA.2.5.2.3, LA.2.6.1.1, LA.2.6.2.1, LA.2.6.2.2, LA.2.6.2.3, LA.2.6.2.4, LA.2.6.4.1, LA.2.6.4.2

Social Studies: SS.4.G.1.3, SS.1.A.3.1, SS.1.A.3.2, SS.1.G.1.6
SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.L.14.2, SC.1.L.16.1, SC.1.L.17.1

Math: MA.5.G.3.1, MA.4.A.1.1, MA.4.A.1.2, MA.4.A.2.4, MA.4.A.2.4,
MA.4.G.3.1, MA.4.G.3.2, MA.4.G.3.3, MA.4.A.4.1, MA.4.A.4.2, MA.4.A.6.2,
MA.4.A.6.6
MA.2.A.2.2, MA.2.A.2.4, MA.2.G.3.1, MA.2.G.3.4, MA.2.A.4.2, MA.2.A.4.3,
MA.2.G.5.1; MA.2.G.5.4., MA.2.A.6.1

Science: SC.4.N.1.6, SC.4.L.16.2, SC.4.L.17.2, SC.4.L.17.3, SC.4.L.17.4,
SC.5.N.1.1, SC.5.L.17.1, SC.1.N.1.1, SC.1.N.1.3, SC.1.E.6.2, SC.1.E.6.3,

Level of Involvement

We, the teachers of the gifted, at Blue Lakes Elementary Autism Intensive Communication Academy have witnessed how quickly students establish connections with their schoolmates, with nature, and to their required school work by participating in planting seeds, turning compost, or examining butterflies. The garden is a neutral ground where students are often required to work in collaborative groups in order to accomplish tasks; in the process they must figure out how to communicate effectively and complete the task at hand.

The parents that were members of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) began by building community partnerships. The teachers researched, applied for and secured small grants. The material used for enhancing and expanding our butterfly garden and building the vegetable beds were donated by an organization named KABOOM! Other community support came from Home Depot, LOWES and donations from local plant nurseries. The World Center Booster Club hosts a Harvest Festival every year in order to raise funds for our Garden Program. An annual school wide Earth Day also takes place in April of every year. We invite all classrooms and students to participate in this event. We ask for children to bring in butterfly friendly plants (milkweed, passion vine, porterweed, firebush etc...) for planting. We also ask our community partnerships to donate plants. This event creates environmental focus to our garden.

Garden Quality

How did a group of interested parents and teachers in Blue Lakes Elementary pave the way for a sustainable garden? They started slowly.

After Hurricane Andrew destroyed the few trees that we had, a small area was chosen in the patio outside of room 53. The garden was started with about ten plants and two trees. The plants consisted of Pentas and some Impatiens. The two trees were citrus trees. The teachers wanted to become more knowledgeable on plant selection and butterflies. As a result, a fieldtrip was organized to Butterfly World. Throughout the years, teachers retired, and the responsibility of the butterfly garden continues to be passed down to the new incoming teachers of the gifted.

In the beginning, fundraising was essential. A few years ago, the teachers and parents of World Center (the gifted program) in Blue Lakes Elementary decided to take on the responsibility of expanding the garden. The maintenance and overall care of the garden was assigned to the program. The booster club for World Center, which consisted of parents, quickly began brainstorming ideas on how to expand the butterfly garden. The teachers wanted to incorporate connections between food and learning so a vegetable garden was designed and implemented.

We are very proud of our garden. As a matter of fact, we received recognition from The University IFAS Extension and Florida Yards & Neighbors. Our garden successfully met the criteria for designation as a Certified Florida –Friendly Landscape. Additionally, in 1994 we received a letter from Bill Clinton recognizing our efforts and concerns about our environment. In 2010, we wrote to Michelle Obama and provided pictures of our new vegetable garden. She responded to the letter and included a recipe that we could make using some of the herbs and vegetables in our garden.

The plants and vegetables in the butterfly garden were carefully selected. The plants in the butterfly garden were chosen based on butterfly friendliness. We chose plants for nectar, hosts and larva. Most importantly, the plants that were chosen would flourish in the humid temperatures of Florida. In the vegetable garden, seasonal vegetables are chosen in order to ensure a successful harvest. Currently, we have eggplant, tomato, arugula and bell peppers. Herbs such as thyme, cilantro, basil and rosemary are also grown in the garden.

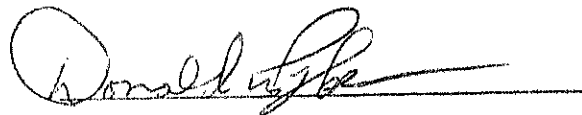
Blue Lakes Elementary, Butterfly Garden

Has successfully met the criteria for designation as a

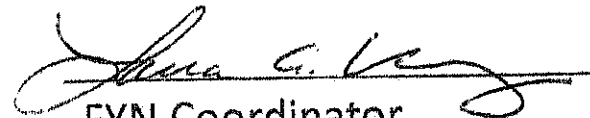
Certified Florida-Friendly Landscape

at

9250 SW 52nd Ter. Miami, FL 33165



Extension Director



FYN Coordinator



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

FLORIDA
YARDS &
NEIGHBORHOODS

Protecting Florida's Natural Resources Through Environmentally Friendly Landscaping and Yardcare

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 13, 1994

Students of Ms. Correa-Machado
Blue Lakes Elementary
c/o World Center
9250 Southwest 52 Terrace
Miami, Florida 33165

Dear Students:

Thank you for sending me the video you produced to express your concerns about our precious environment.

I am touched by your thoughtful generosity, and I want you to know how much I appreciate your support.

You are the future of our country, and I hope you will use your creative talents as you and your generation lead our nation into the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE

February 18, 2010

Ms. Aida Marrero
Principal
Blue Lakes Elementary World Center
9250 Southwest 52nd Terrace
Miami, Florida 33165-6518

Dear Ms. Marrero and Blue Lakes Students:

Thank you for your nice note about the White House kitchen garden. Helping to care for the garden has been so much fun – and we have had a lot of success, too! The garden has already yielded hundreds of pounds of fresh, healthy, and delicious food for our family, the White House staff, and a neighboring shelter that provides healthy meals to those in need.

The message is simple: Incorporating more fresh fruits and vegetables into our meals can help us live healthier lives. The benefits of healthy eating habits for children are particularly important. In order to address the very serious issues of obesity and diabetes, we need our kids to make healthier choices. This will take some time, but small changes like adding more fresh fruits and vegetables to our meals is a good first step.

However, as part of this discussion, we also have to address the issue of access. In many communities, fresh healthy food is simply out of reach. More than one million community gardens have been started as citizens across the country have taken matters into their own hands to tackle this lack of access. The benefit is not just the availability of fresh produce, but also a stronger connection to the community and a healthier future.

Thank you again for your letter. The White House kitchen garden has given us the chance to shed some light on the important food and nutrition issues that we need to address as a Nation, as well as have a lot of fun. I have enclosed a favorite recipe of ours using ingredients from the garden. I hope you enjoy it and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Michelle Obama

Description of Our Butterfly Plants/Trees

Passion Flower Vines - It is a native plant to Florida. This plant requires full sunlight, has a rapid growth and its flowers bloom in a variety of colors.

Porterweed - This shrub grows up to 6 feet tall. It has long spikes with a variety of colored flowers.

Cordia - This plant forms a tight, rounded shrub about eight feet tall and produces small, cup shaped white flowers.

Pentas - A very popular plant used in border planting or for splashes of bright color in front of green shrubs. Clusters of star-like flowers are produced through the year. Flowers come in tones of bright pink, red and white, and should be used in drifts of different colors. A subshrub that grow outdoors year-round in Florida.

Mexican Heather - This plant produces a small purple flower.

Jatropha - This is a red flowering shrub. It grow up to 15 feet tall.

Pipe Vines - These vines produce large brown marbled flower.

Necklace Pod - This is a leggy, somewhat sprawling shrub that requires full sun. It has long spikes of yellow pea-like flowers.

Firebush - This plant is native to South Florida. A colorful shrub or small tree that bears numerous small orange-red tubular flowers throughout most of the year. Useful as a barrier plant in full sun, and thrives in limestone soils.

Coffee - There are several species of coffee which are native to Florida. All have white flowers and red fruits. This plant can be planted in full sun or in the shade of trees.

Lantana - There are several species of native lantanas. This shrub cultivates with a variety of colored flowers. This plant requires full sun.

Coontie - This low shrub is a native to Florida. It has small shiny leaves and a rootstock (cone-like) in the middle. It has a slow growth rate and requires partial or full sun light. It grows between 1 to 2 feet tall.

Citrus - This tree is native to south Florida. Either the orange or tangerine tree has edible fruits with fragrant flowers blooming.

Shooting Stars - This shrub produces upright spikes of violet or purple flowers. It is a native to south Florida.

Gumbo Limbo Tree - It is a native tree to Florida. This well-known tropical tree, its smooth, reddish, peeling bark is a common constituent of the hardwood forests of South Florida. It is an excellent tree for landscape use.

Privet Cassia - This plant grows from shrub to 4 feet tall. It has yellow flowers and should be planted 4 to 5 feet apart.

Salvia - Native from southeastern United States to Mexico and Central America. A small herbaceous plant with small, red, tubular flowers. Prefers full sun but will tolerate high shifting shade.

Jamaican Caper - This small tree or shrub has landscape potential because of its tidy lollipop-type crown that never needs pruning. The shiny leaves grow toward the tips of its branches. The flowers are white to pink and very showy. The handsome character of this tree makes it appropriate for formal use, lining a driveway or creating a tall (6-10 feet) hedge.

Bahama Caper - This plant attains a height of about four feet. Each branch tip produces clusters of bright yellow flowers.

Limber Caper - This plant is a shrub and grows up to 5 feet tall.

Matching Species to Plants

Butterfly

Plant

Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Long Wing
Variegated Fritillary

Passion Flower Vines

Monarch, Cloudless Sulphur, Long
Tailed Skipper, Dorantes Skipper,
Black Mangrove Buckeye

Blue Porterweed

Orange-Barred Sulphur, Cloudless
Sulphur

Cordia

Schaus Swallowtail (endangered species)

Pink Pentas

Various Butterflies

Mexican Heather

Various Butterflies

Jatropha

Pipevine Swallowtail, Polydamas
Swallowtail

Pipe Vines

Schaus Swallowtail (endangered species)

White Pentas

Cassius Blue, Common Sulphur
Gray Hairstreak

Necklace Pod

Eastern Black Swallowtail,
Zebra Long Wing, Gulf Fritillary,
Julia, Large Orange Sulphur
Palamedes Swallowtail

Firebush

Ruddy Daggerwing

Coffee



