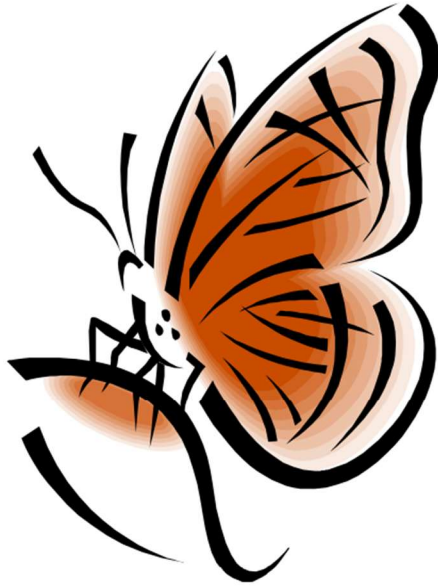


Butterfly Gardens



Brightly colored butterflies can be a welcome addition to your backyard. They not only bring color and beauty but also motion to the garden. To attract the greatest number of butterflies and have them as residents in your yard, you will need to have plants that serve the needs of all life stages of the butterfly. They need a place to lay eggs, food plants for the larva (caterpillar), a place to form a chrysalis (cocoon), and nectar sources for the adult.

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The following is a list of things needed to create a butterfly garden.

Sunny Location

Most of the nectar and host plants will need a sunny area for best performance. Pick an area that is protected from strong winds. Nectar Plants These are plants that the butterfly (adult stage) will use as a food source.

Host Plants

These plants provide the caterpillar (larval stage) with a food source. They also provide a place for the female butterfly to lay eggs. Note: Host plants will show signs of damage. They are meant to be eaten.

Puddling

This is a shallow puddle from which butterflies can drink and extract salt. A clay saucer with a little mud around the edges works well.

No Pesticides

Spraying pesticides in or near the butterfly garden will kill all the butterflies and the caterpillars you are trying to attract. You want to see the caterpillars enter their chrysalises so they can transform into beautiful butterflies.

Bloom

Try to incorporate a variety of flowers so that something is in bloom continuously.



The following is a list of plants to help you create a butterfly garden.

Host Plants

Borage (*Borago officinalis*) Herb
Clover (*Trifolium* spp) Wildflower
Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) Herb
False Nettle (*Boehmeris* spp) Wildflower
Mallow (*Malva* spp) Perennial
Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp)
Wildflower/Perennial
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum* spp) Annual
Nettle (*Urtica* spp) Wildflower
Parsley (*Petroselinium crispum*) Herb
Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)
Wildflower
Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum* spp) Annual
Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) Herb
Turtlehead (*Chelone* spp) Perennial
Violet (*Viola* spp) Wildflower

Nectar Plants

Perennials

Aster (*Aster* spp)
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* spp)
Blazing Star (*Liatris* spp)
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias* spp)
Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp)
Hyssop (*Agastache* spp)
Ironweed (*Veronica* spp)
Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium* spp)
Purple Cone Flower (*Echinacea* spp)

Annuals

Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)
Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*)
Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
Marigold (*Tagetes* spp)
Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*)
Verbena
Zinnia (*Zinnia* spp)

Shrubs

Bluebeard (*Caryopteris* spp)
Butterfly bush (*Buddleia* spp)

Lilac (*Syringa* spp)
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Native (host plant)
Summersweet (*Clethra* spp)
Trees-Host Plants
Buckeye (*Aesculus* spp)
Cottonwood (*Populus* spp)
Native Hackberry (*Celtis* spp)
Native Plum, Cherry (*Prunus* spp)
Sassafras (*Sassafras* spp)
Native Willows (*Salix* spp)
Vines-Host Plants
Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia* spp)
Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp)
Hops (*Humulus* spp)

This is in no way a complete list. In general, butterflies like fragrant plants with bright flowers, especially purple, yellow, pink, blue and white. They also like blossoms that are clustered or flat-topped (these make good landing platforms during feeding), and they like flowers with short tubes so it's easy for them to reach the nectar with their tongues (proboscis). Because so many generations of butterflies come and go from spring to fall, it's important to plan your plantings so there's always something in bloom. A season-long smorgasbord of food flowers is what you're after, not a mass of just a few plants that all bloom right around the same time. Go with enough variety and you'll probably meet this need without ever trying!

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