

Notes



Tips for Creating A Successful Butterfly Garden



You can easily create a butterfly garden by providing just a few essentials for butterflies. A safe place to gather, seek shelter, acquire food and water, and reproduce.

SUN

Plant your butterfly garden in an area that gets at least 6 hours of sunlight. Butterflies love the sun and so do most of the plants they visit.

PLANTS

Plant a variety of both nectar producing plants (for food) and host plants (to lay eggs and raise their young).

Visit your local garden nursery and see what plants are native to your area.

Include plants that will bloom at different times of the year, providing a source of food all year long.

Include both annual and perennial plants, as well as trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and herbs that butterflies are attracted to.

WATER

Generally, butterflies get their liquid from the nectar of plants that they visit. But they do enjoy “puddling” from shallow puddles of mud and sand. These puddles provide them with the minerals they need and are especially important for the male butterfly to help with reproduction.

You can easily create using a shallow dish with dirt or sand that has been soaked in water.

Be Ecofriendly When You Garden

Avoid pesticides in your yard and garden that will not only harm the butterflies but other pollinators and beneficial insects.

Use eco friendly mulches.



Plants to Attract Butterflies

When creating your butterfly garden choose a variety of annuals, perennials, vines, bushes, herbs and trees to provide food (nectar), and a place for the butterflies to lay their eggs (host plants). Try to have something blooming from spring until late fall. This list is by no means complete. Visit your local nursery and find out what plants grow best in your area and gardening zone. Many nurseries have a special section with specifically identified plants as being butterfly or pollinator friendly. They can be a valuable resource.

Nectar Producing Plants

- Allium
- American Boneset
- Bee Balm
- Blanket flower
- Blue False Indigo
- Butterfly weed
- Coneflower
- Coreopsis
- Cosmos
- Joe Pye Weed
- Lantana
- Phlox
- Sedum (Autumn Joy)
- Tickseed
- Verbena
- Zinnia



Trees

- Aspen
- Elm
- Flowering Dogwood
- Tulip



Vines

- Honeysuckle
- Moonflower
- Passion Flower



Host Plants

- Aster
- Black-eyed Susan
- Dill
- Hollyhock
- Milkweed
- Nasturtium
- Parsley
- Fennel
- Oregano
- Shasta Daisy
- Snapdragon
- Sunflower
- Verbena

