



Butterfly Gardening

Butterflies brighten a garden with their many colors and quiet flitting movements. Watching these lovely insects can be mesmerizing. They can become a common sight in a garden that provides food and shelter for them. They are also excellent pollinators and will help increase your flower, fruit and vegetable production.

Why cater to these creatures? Butterflies=beautiful pollinators...

What the Caterpillar Needs

- A location to lay their eggs
- Food plants for the caterpillar
- A location to form a chrysalis
- Nectar sources for the adult butterfly

The caterpillar eats leaves. Each species of caterpillar prefers only certain kinds of leaves and the parent butterfly will be careful to lay her eggs on the preferred plant.

Many butterflies feed on common trees like oaks, hickories and willow often so high up that we seldom notice them. Some species such as the monarch butterfly are very specific and feed on only one kind of plant. The monarch butterfly will only feed on milkweed plants. Plants of the cabbage family such as cabbage, turnips, and some in the parsley family such as carrots dill and Queen Anne's Lace are also host plants.

To create a butterfly habitat you must have an environment good for caterpillars. You should avoid using insecticides, butterflies seldom cause any lasting damage to plants.

Getting Started

Most adult butterflies feed on the high-calorie sugar filled nectar of flowers. In most areas, butterflies appear during summer and early fall. To provide a steady food supply for these winged beauties...

- aim for a wide spectrum of flower colors
- chose varieties with varied bloom times
- plants need to serve the needs of all life stages of the butterfly from caterpillar to adult butterfly.

Plants for your Butterfly Garden

Perennials are plants that come up year after year and grow bigger and more beautiful each season.

PERENNIALS

Aster	Globe Thistle
Astilbe	Hibiscus
Bachelors Button	Hollyhock
Butterfly Weed	Lantana
Campanula	Lavender
Candytuft	Lupine
Columbine	Monarda
Coreopsis	Monks Hood
Delphinium	Phlox
Echinacea	Rudbeckia
Gaillardia	Salvia
Gayfeathers	Scabiosa
Geum	Sedum (Stonecrop)
	Stokesia (Stoke's

Aster)	Cosmos
Sweet William	Dahlia
Sweet Woodruff	Dianthus
Verbena	Fuchsia
Yarrow (Achillea)	Gypsophila

ANNUALS

Ageratum	Heliotrope
Alyssum	Lantana
Aster	Marigolds
Calibrachoa	Pentas
Canna	Phlox
Carnation	Rosemary
Coleus	Rudbeckia
	Shrimp Plant
	Snapdragon

Sunflowers
Thyme
Tithonia
Zinnias

TREES & SHRUBS

Butterfly Bush
Common Lilac
Honeysuckle
Privet
Pussy Willow
Rose of Sharon
Spirea
Weigela