



## Butterfly Gardens



### Why cater to these creatures? Because Butterflies = Beautiful Pollinators!

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.

#### What the caterpillar needs:

- A location to lay their eggs.
- Plants for the caterpillar's food.
- A location to form a chrysalis.
- Nectar sources for the adult butterfly.

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

Many butterflies feed on common trees like oaks, hickories and willows and they are often so high up that we seldom notice them. Some species, such as the Monarch, are very special and feed only on one-of-a-kind plants. For example, the Monarch only feeds 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 conducive to 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, you should:

- Aim for a wide spectrum of flower colors.
- Choose varieties with varied bloom times.
- Grow various plants to serve the needs of all life stages of the butterfly from caterpillar to adult butterfly.





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### Plants for Your Butterfly Garden

| Perennials*   | Annuals  | Trees & Shrubs   |
|---|--|--|
| Achillea (Yarrow)<br>Aster<br>Astilbe<br>Bachelor's Button<br>Butterfly Weed<br>Campanula<br>Candytuft<br>Columbine<br>Coreopsis<br>Delphinium<br>Echinacea<br>Gaillardia<br>Gayfeathers<br>Geum<br>Globe Thistle<br>Hibiscus<br>Hollyhock<br>Lantana<br>Lavender<br>Lupine<br>Monarda<br>Monks Hood<br>Phlox<br>Rudbeckia<br>Salvia<br>Scabiosa<br>Sedum (Stonecrop)<br>Stokesia (Stoke's Aster)<br>Sweet William<br>Sweet Woodruff<br>Verbena | Ageratum<br>Alyssum<br>Aster<br>Calibrachoa<br>Canna<br>Carnation<br>Coleus<br>Cosmos<br>Dahlia<br>Dianthus<br>Fuchsia<br>Gypsophila<br>Heliotrope<br>Lantana<br>Marigolds<br>Pentas<br>Phlox<br>Rosemary<br>Rudbeckia<br>Shrimp Plant<br>Snapdragon<br>Sunflowers<br>Thyme<br>Tithonia<br>Zinnias | Butterfly Bush<br>Common Lilac<br>Honeysuckle<br>Privet<br>Pussy Willow<br>Rose Of Sharon<br>Spirea<br>Weigela |

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



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