



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 (cocoons), and nectar sources for the adult.



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 salts. A clay saucer with a little mud around the edges works good.

## 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 a beautiful butterfly.

## 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 (Borage 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 (Foceniculum 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) I ronweed (Veronica spp) Jo-pye Weed (Eupatorium spp) Purple Cone Flower (Echinacea spp)

#### <u>Annuals</u>

Cosmos (cosmos bipinnatus) Heliptrope (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 (Saliz 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!



# TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

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