



Butterfly Gardening

Information and photos courtesy of The Morton Arboretum

Creating a butterfly garden is a simple process that involves choosing the correct plants, location, and amenities. A successful butterfly garden has nectar-rich flowers, shelter, water and sun. By providing a garden that is ideal to both the adults and larvae, you will be rewarded with butterflies for many seasons to come.

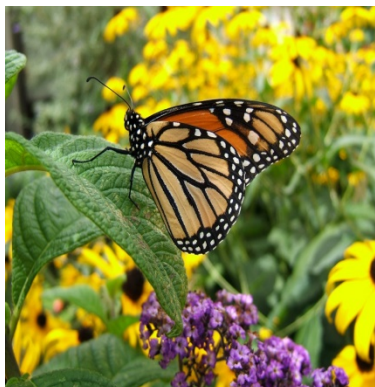
Life Cycle

Butterflies go through a series of four life cycles: egg, larvae, pupa, and adult. As an adult, the butterfly has high demands to find a mate, reproduce, eat, seek shelter and find nectar to stay active. Butterfly larvae depend on certain plant species for food. The leaf damage from feeding is usually minimal and non-threatening to the plant.



Designing a Butterfly Garden

- Locate your garden in a sunny area. Flowers that need full sun attract more butterflies.
- Choose plants with clusters of short tubular flowers. Use the Plant List on the back of this sheet for recommendations.
- Use large blocks of color. Butterflies are attracted to flowers by their color, so planting in masses makes it easier for them to find that single planting.
- Provide continuous blooms throughout the growing season. Butterflies are active from spring into late fall; selecting flowers that bloom in the mid to late summer will attract butterflies while they are the most active.
- Provide food for the caterpillars (milkweed and butterfly weed are the monarch butterfly's favorite).
- Provide shallow watering areas, such as a birdbath or saucer. Butterflies drink from moist soil or shallow puddles.
- Provide a shady, sheltered area for the butterflies to cool down in hot weather.
- Do not use pesticides! Butterflies are easily killed by insecticides. There are many natural, organic products that can be used, such as insecticidal soap.
- Some butterflies prefer fruit over flower nectar. Leave some orange slices or melon rinds in the garden for the butterflies to feed on.



Plants to Attract Butterflies

Perennials	Common Name
Actaea	Snakeroot
Agastache	Hyssop
Allium	Ornamental Onion
Amsonia	Amsonia
Asclepias	Butterfly Weed
Aster	Aster
Astilbe	Astilbe
Baptisia	False Indigo
Buddleia	Butterfly Bush
Caryopteris	Blue Mist Shrub
Coreopsis	Coreopsis
Dalea	Purple Prairie Clover
Echinacea	Coneflower
Eupatorium	Joe Pye Weed
Filipendula	Queen of the Prairie
Gaillardia	Blanket Flower
Heliopsis	False Sunflower
Hemerocallis	Daylily
Lavendula	Lavender
Leucanthemum	Shasta Daisy
Liatrix	Gayfeather
Lycium	Sweet Life Gojiberry
Nepeta	Catmint
Penstemon	Beardtongue
Phlox	Phlox
Rudbeckia	Black-eyed Susan
Salvia	Sage
Sedum	Sedum
Stachys	Lamb's Ear
Veronia	Iron Butterfly Iron Weed
Veronicastrum	Lavender Towers Culvers Root
Yarrow	Yarrow
Yucca	Yucca

Annuals	Common Name
Ageratum	Floss Flower
Antirrhinum	Snapdragon
Argyranthemum	Marguerite Daisy
Bidens	Bidens
Cosmos	Cosmos
Dianthus	Pinks
Dill	Dill
Gomphrena	Gomphrena
Heliotrope	Heliotrope
Lantana	Lantana
Lobularia	Sweet Alyssum
Nasturtium	Nasturtium
Pentas	Star Flower / Star Cluster
Salvia	Sage
Viola	Pansy
Zinnia	Zinnia

Shrubs	Common Name
Aesculus parviflora	Bottlebrush Buckeye
Clethra	Summersweet
Diervilla	Cool Splash Honeysuckle
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf Hydrangea
Itea	Sweetspire
Physocarpus	Ninebark
Spiraea	Spirea
Syringa	Lilac