

Making a Butterfly Garden

Butterflies feed on the flower nectar of certain plants. You can plant these plants in your garden and attract a lot of visiting butterflies. You might also plant some plants that the butterflies' caterpillars like to eat. The butterflies will then lay their eggs on those plants and their caterpillars will hatch out and they will feed on your flowers. They are rather interesting to look at themselves. Then they will pupate and hatch out into more butterflies!

What To Plant

- 1) Different species of butterflies will be attracted to different plants according to their taste in nectar or even flower color. If you want to attract a variety of butterflies, plant a variety of flowers.
- 2) Also try to plant things that will bloom all summer long so your butterflies will have food all season. You can do this by planting some early bloomers and some later bloomers. That way there will always be something blooming in your butterfly garden.
- 3) Butterflies are attracted to groups of flowers, so be sure and plant more than one flower in any area.
- 4) They also like puddles of water. Collections of male butterflies at a puddle is called a "puddle club." In a butterfly garden you can have a bowl sunk into the ground and filled with water or even fruit juice. This will attract butterfly to congregate. Some people use stale beer, but this can also attract slugs and snails.
- 5) Some examples of flowers that butterflies like are cosmos, Queen Anne's lace, zinnia, butterfly weed, cone-flowers, New England asters, spearmint, milkweed, yarrow, phlox, ironweed, thistles, verbena, goldenrod, Shasta daisy, coreopsis, black-eyed Susan, yarrow, sedum, sunflowers, and daylilies. These will also make beautiful gardens!
- 6) Here are some specific flowers that butterflies and their caterpillars like to eat.

Butterfly Adult

Favorite Foods

Swallowtail Caterpillar	the nectar of milkweed, goldenrod, lilac, azalea, honeysuckle, verbena the leaves of orange trees, ash trees
Fritillary Caterpillar	the nectar of milkweed, ironweed, mint, goldenrod, thistles, butterfly bush violets
Monarch Caterpillar	the nectar of milkweed, ironweed, black-eyed Susan, verbena milkweed
Mourning Cloak Caterpillar	the nectar of milkweed, butterfly bush, daisies, fallen fruit from fruit trees rotting on the ground the leaves of aspen, birch, elm, willow and poplar
Painted Lady Caterpillar	the nectar of milkweed, goldenrod, zinnia, butterfly bush, asters daisies and hollyhocks
Red Admiral Caterpillar	the nectar of milkweed, goldenrod, butterfly bush, asters, daisies, fallen fruit from fruit trees rotting on the ground the leaves of nettles
Tiger Swallowtail	the nectar of milkweed, butterfly bush, ironweed, honeysuckle, phlox, lilac blossoms

Caterpillar

the leaves of lilac bushes, cherry, ash, birch, and tulip tree

Viceroy
ground

the nectar of milkweed, goldenrod and asters, fallen fruit from fruit trees rotting on the

Caterpillar

the leaves of apple, willow and poplar trees

Plant Flowers... Attract Butterflies

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Tiger Swallowtail
4-5.5"

Meadow Fritillary
1.5-1.75"



Mourning Cloak
2.5-3.5"



Black Swallowtail
2.5-3.5"



Monarch
3-4"



aster



milkweed



black-eyed Susan



goldenrod



chicory



daisy



honeysuckle



Spicebush Swallowtail
3.5-4.5"



Red Admiral
2-2.5"



Viceroy
2.5-3"



Painted Lady
2-4"