

# CREATE YOUR OWN BUTTERFLY GARDEN



It is easy to create or convert your garden into a private retreat for native butterflies. Butterflies use plants during each stage of their life cycle - egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and adult (butterfly). A butterfly garden that includes plants for the entire life cycle will attract the greatest number and variety of native butterflies. Flowers provide a good source of nectar to attract the adults. When a butterfly detects something sweet, it will extend its coiled proboscis and probe into the flower for nectar. It is important when choosing plants to select a variety that will bloom at different times of the season to make your garden more attractive to a wider assortment of butterflies. Plant the flowers in clusters of each species and create a garden that includes several different colors and flower heights. Clusters of flowers are easier for the butterflies to locate than individual plants. A mixture of annuals, perennials and biennials will allow you to experiment with different flower combinations each year as you discover which species work best for your area.

Most caterpillars are specific about the plants they feed on, and female butterflies will only lay their eggs on the caterpillar food plants. Since you cannot have butterflies without caterpillars, be sure to provide a variety of caterpillar food plants to meet the needs of the species in your area. Some plants, like milkweed and alfalfa, provide both nectar for adults and food for many species of caterpillar. Another important aspect of butterfly gardening is the need to provide sources of shelter for the butterflies. Tall trees can provide a place for butterflies to roost at night or during cloudy weather (willows, ash, and chokecherry are also caterpillar food plants for some species). Or, try one of our beautiful butterfly houses. Plant your garden in a sunny place to increase blooming, and provide rocks for butterflies to bask in the sun. Butterflies bask to heat up their wing muscles for flight. Most Important: DO NOT USE PESTICIDES in or near your garden.

## Regional Plantings For Butterfly Gardens

### MID-ATLANTIC

#### BUTTERFLIES

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)  
Red-spotted Purple  
(*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)  
Great Spangled Fritillary  
(*Speyeria cybele*)  
Mourning Cloak  
(*Nymphalis antiopa*)  
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)  
Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio glaucus*)  
Pipevine Swallowtail  
(*Battus philenor*)

#### HOST PLANTS

milkweeds  
willow, poplar, cherry  
(*Viola*) species  
elm, adler  
various mallows, thistles  
clovers and other legumes  
Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia*)

#### NECTAR PLANTS

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Monarda (*Monarda*) species  
Goldenrods (*Solidago*) species  
Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Verbena (*Verbena*) species  
Joe-pye Weed  
(*Eupatorium purpureum*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)

## CALIFORNIA

### BUTTERFLIES

Western Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio rutulus*)  
Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*)  
West Coast Lady (*Vanessa annabella*)  
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)  
Variable Checkerspot  
(*Euphydryas chalcedona*)  
Sara Orangetip (*Anthocharis sara*)  
Acmon Blue (*Plebeus acmon*)  
Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*)  
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

### HOST PLANTS

poplar, elm various  
parsleys various  
mallows willow  
*Scrophularia Mimulus*  
various mustards  
buckwheats  
passion vine  
milkweeds

### NECTAR PLANTS

Heliotrope  
(*Heliotropum arborescens*)  
Yerba Santa  
(*Eriodictyon californicum*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Thistles (*Cirsium species*)  
Lantana (*Lantana camara and others*)  
Statice (*Limonium species*)  
Mexican Sunflower  
(*Tithonia rotundifolia*)  
California Buckeye  
(*Aesculus californicus*)  
Yarrow (*Achillea species*)

## FLORIDA

### BUTTERFLIES

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio glaucus*)  
Queen (*Danaus gilippus*)  
Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)  
Palamedes Swallowtail  
(*Papilio palamedes*)  
Zebra Longwing  
(*Heliconius charitonius*)  
Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*)  
Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)  
Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*)  
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

### HOST PLANTS

willow, poplar, alder milkweeds  
citus, hop tree, prickly ash  
redbay and other laurels  
Passion vine  
mallows and legumes  
Dutchman's Pipe  
Passion vine  
milkweeds

### NECTAR PLANTS

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Verbena (*Verbena braziliensis*)  
Blazingstar (*Liatris species*)  
Joe-pye Weed  
(*Eupatorium fistulosum*)  
Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)  
Firewheel Blanketflower  
(*Gallaridia pulchella*)

## GREAT LAKES

### BUTTERFLIES

Red-spotted Purple  
(*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)  
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)  
Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)  
Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)  
Great Spangled Fritillary  
(*Speyeria cybele*)  
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
Pipevine Swallowtail  
(*Battus philenor*)  
Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio glaucus*)  
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

### HOST PLANTS

willow, cherry, poplar, elm  
clovers  
plantago  
snapdragons  
various violets  
various mallows and thistles  
Dutchman's Pipe  
citrus, hop tree  
prickly ash  
milkweeds

### NECTAR PLANTS

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
False Indigo (*Baptisia leucantha*)  
Lilac (*Syringia vulgaris*)  
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)  
Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Blazingstars (*Liatris species*)  
Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

## MIDWEST

### BUTTERFLIES

Red-spotted Purple  
(*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)  
Great Spangled Fritillary  
(*Speyeria cybele*)  
Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*)  
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
Silver-bordered Fritillary  
(*Boloria selene*)  
Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)  
Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio glaucus*)  
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

### HOST PLANTS

willow, poplar, cherry  
various violets  
clovers and other legumes  
various mallows and thistles  
Dutchmans' Pipe  
citrus, hop tree, prickly ash willow,  
alder  
milkweeds

### NECTAR PLANTS

Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Swamp Milkweed  
(*Asclepias incarnata*)  
Mexican Sunflower  
(*Tithonia rotundifolia*)  
Joe-pye Weeds  
(*Eupatorium species*)

## NEW ENGLAND

### BUTTERFLIES

Red-spotted Purple  
(*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)  
Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)  
Great Spangled Fritillary  
(*Speyeria cybele*)  
Baltimore Checkerspot  
(*Euphydryas phaeton*)  
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)  
White Admiral (*Limenitis arthemis*)  
Striped Hairstreak (*Satyrrium liparops*)  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio glaucus*)  
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

### HOST PLANTS

willow, poplar, cherry  
carrot family  
various violets  
penstemon, plantago, ash  
viburnum various mallows, thistles  
birch, oak  
blueberry, cherry willow  
elm, alder  
milkweeds

### NECTAR PLANTS

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)  
Lance-leaved Goldenrod  
(*Solidago graminifolia*)  
Common Boneset  
(*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)  
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia serotina*)  
Thistles (*Cirsium species*)  
Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

## ROCKY MOUNTAINS

### BUTTERFLIES

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)  
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)  
Weidemeyer's Admiral (*Limenitis*)  
Orange Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)  
Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*)  
Melissa Blue (*Lycaeides melissa*)  
Clodius Parnassian (*Parnassius clodius*)  
Western Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio rutulus*)  
Anise Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*)

### HOST PLANTS

*Scrophularia mimulus*  
clovers  
willow, poplar, elm  
legumes, mallows  
Bleeding Hearts  
parsleys

### NECTAR PLANTS

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa species*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Buckwheats (*Eriogonum species*)  
Verbena (*Verbena species*)  
Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and others  
Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)

## SOUTHEAST

### BUTTERFLIES

Red-spotted Purple  
(*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)  
Silver-bordered Fritillary  
(*Boloria selene*)  
Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)  
Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)  
Great Spangled Fritillary  
(*Speyeria cybele*)  
Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio glaucus*)  
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)  
Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

### HOST PLANTS

willow, poplar, cherry, elm, adler  
Viola species  
clovers  
Dutchman's Pipe  
carrot family  
milkweeds

### NECTAR PLANTS

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Lilac (*Syringia vulgaris*)  
Hoary Mountain Mint  
(*Pycnanthemum incanum*)  
Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Lanceleaf Coreopsis  
(*Coreopsis lanceolata*)  
Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### BUTTERFLIES

Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)  
Sara Orangetip (*Anthocharis sara*)  
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)  
Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)  
Westo Coast Lady (*Vanessa annabella*)  
Gary Haristreak (*Strymon melinus*)  
Clodius Parnassian  
(*Parnassius clodius*)  
Western Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio rutulus*)  
Anis Swallowtail (*Papilio zelicaon*)  
Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)

### HOST PLANTS

willow, poplar, elm  
various mustards mallows  
thistles  
plantago  
snapdragons  
mallows and legumes  
Bleeding Hearts  
parsleys  
milkweeds

### NECTAR PLANTS

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Globe Amaranth  
(*Gomphrena globosa*)  
Annual Statice (*Limonium species*)  
Verbena (*Verbena bonariensis*)  
Golden Marguerite  
(*Anthemis tinctoria*)

## TEXAS

### BUTTERFLIES

Red-spotted Purple  
(*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)  
Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*)  
Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*)  
Queen (*Danaus gilippus*)  
Marine Blue (*Leptotes marina*)  
Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)  
Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
(*Papilio glaucus*)  
Zebra Longwing  
(*Heliconius charitonius*)

### HOST PLANTS

willow, poplar, cherry  
Passion Vine  
clovers  
milkweeds  
Plumbago  
Dutchman's Pipe  
citrus, hop tree, prickly ash  
alder, tulip tree  
Passion Vine

### NECTAR PLANTS

Antelope Horn (*Asclepias asperula*)  
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)  
Viburnum (*Viburnum rufidulum*)  
Verbena (*Verbena species*)  
Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Tall Boneset (*Eupatorium altissimum*)  
Elbow Bush (*Foresteria pubescens*)