

Tips for Attracting Butterflies by Planting Annuals and Perennials

Butterflies are attracted to gardens by different **colors** and **flowers**. Butterfly gardens should have a large variety of plants that will provide nectar and pollen as well as shelter for them to lay their eggs and the larvae to eat. Plants should be staggered so that they bloom at different times during the season. This will help to keep butterflies in your garden for longer periods of time. General information on butterflies is examined further below. A list of annuals and perennials that will attract butterflies to your garden follows the general information on butterflies.

General information on Butterflies:

- Butterflies are cold-blooded creatures.
- They need sun to warm their wing muscles in order to fly.
- The best temperature range for them to fly is 75-90 degrees.
- If temperatures dip below 75 degrees butterflies tend to bask, using the sun's heat to warm their bodies.
- A large, flat rock in the butterfly garden provides a warm spot for basking.
- If temperatures get too warm, butterflies will seek shade.

Components for creating a successful Butterfly Garden:

- Providing shelter is very important, butterflies prefer to feed and lay eggs in sheltered areas (they do not like to fight wind gusts).
- A row of shrubs or trees can make for a dual-purpose windbreak if plants also provide food for butterflies.
- Place tall plants at the back and the sides of the butterfly garden for additional protection.
- Keeping a bowl of wet sand or creating a mud puddle in your garden will encourage puddling – mud puddles provide butterflies with salt and nutrients which are necessary for mating purposes.
- Insecticides and pesticides used in butterfly gardens will kill butterflies; keep in mind non-chemical methods of controlling pests.

Annuals

Botanical Name	Common Name	Light Requirement
<i>Agastache</i>	Blue Fortune	Full sun
<i>Ageratum</i>	Ageratum	Full sun
<i>Bidens</i>	Tickseed Sunflower	Full sun
<i>Calendula</i>	Marigold	Full sun
<i>Cleome</i>	Spiderflower	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Cosmos</i>	Cosmos	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Dianthus</i>	Sweet William	Full sun
<i>Heliotrope</i>	Heliotrope	Full sun
<i>Impatiens</i>	Impatiens	Full shade
<i>Lantana</i>	Lantana	Full sun
<i>Lobelia</i>	Lobelia	Full shade
<i>Lobularia</i>	Sweet Alyssum	Full sun
<i>Nicotiana</i>	Flowering Tobacco	Full sun
<i>Penta</i>	Penta	Full sun
<i>Petunia</i>	Petunia	Full sun
<i>Verbena</i>	Verbena	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Zinnia</i>	Zinnia	Full sun

Perennials

Botanical Name	Common Name	Light Requirement
<i>Achillea</i>	Yarrow	Full sun
<i>Alcea</i>	Hollyhock	Full sun
<i>Aquilegia</i>	Columbine	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Anemone</i>	Windflower	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Aruncus</i>	Goatsbeard	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Flower	Full sun
<i>Aster</i>	Hardy Aster	Full sun
<i>Aubrieta</i>	Rock Cress	Full sun
<i>Centaurea</i>	Bachelor Button	Full sun to partial sun
<i>Coreopsis</i>	Tickseed	Full sun
<i>Delphinium</i>	Larkspur	Full sun
<i>Dianthus</i>	Border Carnation	Full sun
<i>Digitalis</i>	Foxglove	Full sun to part shade
<i>Echinacea</i>	Coneflower	Full sun
<i>Echinops</i>	Glove Thistle	Full sun to partial sun
<i>Eupatorium</i>	White snakeroot	Full sun to partial sun
<i>Filipendula</i>	Meadowsweet	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Gaillardia</i>	Blanket Flower	Full sun
<i>Heliopsis</i>	False Sunflower	Full sun
<i>Hemerocallis</i>	Daylily	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Leucanthemum</i>	Shasta Daisy	Full sun
<i>Liatris</i>	Gayfeather	Full sun
<i>Lobelia</i>	Cardinal Flower	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Lupinus</i>	Lupine	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Monarda</i>	Bee Balm	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Nepeta</i>	Catmint	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Paeonia</i>	Peony	Full sun
<i>Penstemon</i>	Beard -Tongue	Full sun
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian Sage	Full sun
<i>Phlox</i>	Phlox	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	Coneflower	Full sun
<i>Salvia</i>	Perennial Sage	Full sun
<i>Scabiosa</i>	Pincushion Flower	Full sun
<i>Sedum</i>	Stonecrop	Full sun
<i>Thalictrum</i>	Meadow Rue	Full sun to partial shade
<i>Tradescantia</i>	Spiderwort	Partial to full shade
<i>Veronica</i>	Speedwell	Full sun