

BUTTERFLY GARDENS

A butterfly garden excites the senses so bring your garden to life by adding plants that will attract the true jewels of nature. Creating a garden to attract these gems can be as simple as adding a few plants to your garden.

Make sure you locate your habitat in a sunny location. A flat stone or a "sunning stone" as an accent to your garden will be greatly appreciated by your new butterfly friends. Butterflies need to warm themselves before taking flight. Placing the stone in an area that is wind protected will also benefit butterflies. Lilac and privet shrubs will not only provide necessary shelter and a windbreak for butterflies but these plants also provide a favorite nectar.

Water is another consideration when building and planting your garden. A birdbath works nicely, because butterflies do not usually fly higher than about 4 feet. Using only the bowl of the birdbath placed directly on the ground in a flowerbed will work out great.

Because different butterflies are attracted to different plants, a list of the more popular plants that will also add color to your garden is listed below.

CONEFLOWER, Purple Magnus, has large daisy-like, purple flower heads that bloom, mid-summer until fall.

GALLARDIA, Goblin is a bicolor, yellow and orange blossom, low mounding plant that will bloom all summer long.

MONARDA, Violet Queen, Mahogany, Marshall's Delight are "Butterfly Magnets"! This clump-forming perennial flowers mid summer until frost.

HIBISCUS, Annual & Perennial – The perennial variety blooms late summer and produces blooms up "dinner plate" size! The annual variety will bloom continuously throughout the summer and produce many blooms up to eight inches in diameter. These plants can be used as a focal point in any butterfly garden.

BUDDLEIA, Black Knight, Royal Red, Harlequin & Nanho Blue, or better known as the "Butterfly Bush" is a woody shrub that will continue to come back bigger & better every year. No butterfly garden is complete without two or three!

Additional perennials that complement a butterfly garden include:

Achillea (Yarrow)	Lavandula (Lavender)
Asclepias (Butterfly Weed)	Liatris (Gay Feather)
Aster	Lobelia (Cardinal Flower)
Centaurea (Bachelor Button)	Mysosotis (Forget-Me-Not) Phlox
Chrysanthemum	Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan)
Coreopsis (Tickseed)	Sedum (Stonecrop)
Dianthus (Pinks)	Solidago (Goldenrod)
Echinops (Globe Thistle)	Thyme (Herb)
Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed)	Veronica (Speedwell)
Hemerocallis (Day Lily)	Lythrum



Annuals that attract butterflies include:

Ageratum	Marigolds
Alyssum	Nicotiana
Cleome	Pentas
Cosmos	Petunias
Gazania	Verbena
Heliotrope (very fragrant)	Zinnias
Lantana	Zinnias
Lobelia	