Gardening For Butterflies

Butterflies add beauty, color, and movement to a garden. They also play a critical role in the food chain as well as in pollinating many flowers and crops. Because so many of the 700 species of butterflies native to North America are endangered due to eradication of the natural habitats and overuse of pesticides, it is more vital than ever that gardeners lend a hand in protecting this fragile part of our ecosystem. If you are interested, the following suggestions may help:

- Group plants together so there is an abundance of flowers for nectar and foliage for caterpillars.
- Select nectar flowers of different heights; not all butterflies fly at the same height
- Provide a mixture of annuals and perennials to provide nectar all season long
- Plant flowers in the sun and provide a few rocks to absorb heat for warmth
- Provide a shallow source of water and protection from wind
- Be very careful with all pesticides

Nectar Sources: Annuals

Allyssum, Ageratum, Heliotrope, Lantana, Marigold, Nasturtium, Parsley, Passion Flower, Verbena

Nectar Sources: Perennials

Achillea (Yarrow),

Agastache (Anise hyssop),

Amsonia (Blue Star Flower),

Ascelepias (Milkweed), Aster,

Boltonia (Bolton's Aster),

Baptisa (False Indigo),

Caryopteris (Bluebeard),

Ceratostigma (Plumbago),

Chelone (Turtlehead),

Cimicifuga (Bugbane),

Coreopsis (**Tickseed**),

Dianthus (Pinks),

Echinacea (Coneflower),

Eupatorium (Boneset),

Iberis (Candytuft),

Heliopsis (False Sunflower),

Hemerocallis (Daylily),

Lavendula (Lavender),

Liatris (**Gayfeather**),

Monarda (Bee Balm),

Nepeta (Catmint),

Penstemon (Beard-tongue),

Perovskia (Russian Sage),

Garden Phlox,

Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan),

Scabiosa (Pincushion),

Sedum (**Stonecrop**),

Solidago (Goldenrod),

Stokesia (Stoke's Aster),

Veronica (**Speedwell**)



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Basics For Butterfly Gardening



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