

Attracting Butterflies To Your Garden

Creating A Butterfly Friendly Garden At Home

By creating a homey environment you will entice butterflies to stick around and lay eggs for the next generation.

Create A Vision

Choose a sunny area in your yard and implement a garden design that incorporates the key components that will attract local butterflies.

Provide A Food Source

Adult butterflies rely solely on liquid food sources. While, butterfly larvae have chewing mouthparts and feed on leafy food plants. Remember to mix it up when you are selecting plants for your garden to attract both larvae and adults.

Offer Water

Butterflies prefer shallow puddles or moist sandy areas. These provide them with essential salts and minerals.

Create Shelter

Butterflies need protection from the wind and rain. Existing trees and shrubs are great source for sheltering. Not only do these provide much needed shelter but it gives them a safe place to roost at night.

Keep it Sunny

Butterflies are cold blooded insects, and just like us on those cold mornings, they too, are slow to get going. Locate the garden in an area that the sun hits early and receives at least 6 hours of sunshine each day, so that they can warm up quicker.

Plant in Drifts

Group the same type of plants in clumps of 3-5 plants. This allows for butterflies to easily spot larger drifts of color as they look for food sources.

Go Organic

Gardening does not come pest and stress free, there will be times where you will need to intervene to keep the problem in check. When those problems do pop up choose organic products that are naturally derived and safe for animals and the environment.



Selecting Butterfly Friendly Plants For Your Garden

Butterflies benefit greatly from a diversity of plants in a range of types, sizes, and flower colors

Selecting Plants

There are many flowers on the market that will attract butterflies, but only some offer the better sources of nutrients they need to thrive.

Nectar Plants vs. Caterpillar Host Plants

Include plants that support the butterfly throughout its life cycle. Adults will benefit from flowering nectar plants which provides them with food and energy. Whereas, the leaves of larval plants feed growing caterpillars.

Selectively Incorporate Some Natives

Include a few strategically placed native plants into your vision, these along with other plants will offer a butterfly stability to return annually

Select Diversity

Select an assortment of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. You will want to create food source layers for butterflies to discover because not all butterflies seek out nectar higher up, some feed closer to the ground.

Plant with Color in Mind

Butterflies love large waves of vibrant, bold colors, such as pinks, red, oranges, whites, yellows, and purples.

Plant for All Season Color

When you begin your plant selection, focus on flowers that bloom at different times while overlapping each other to create a wave of color. While your focus is on plants that bloom mid to late summer, don't forget to add some fall flowering plants for those traveling south for the winter.