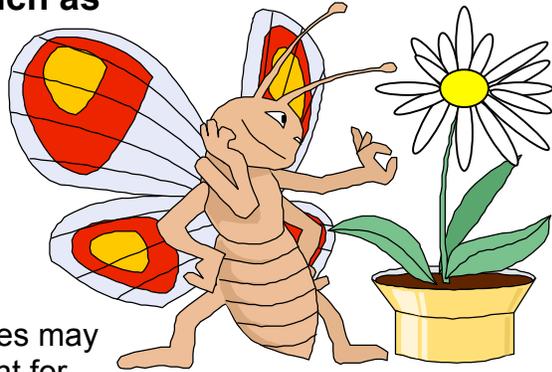


Butterfly Garden Necessities

❁ Install native flowering plants as much as

possible – Because many butterflies and native flowering plants have co-evolved over time and depend on each other for survival and reproduction, it is particularly important to install native flowering plants local to your geographic area. Please check with your local or state native plant society to be sure that the plants you plant to attract butterflies to your garden are native to your region. Adult butterflies may accidentally mistake a non-native, invasive plant for a good egg-laying site, which could prevent the survival of its offspring. Grow your nectar-producing native plants in sunny areas that are protected from strong winds.



❁ **Plant color is important** – Butterflies are attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink, and purple blooms. Different species like different colors, so plant a variety of colors.

❁ **Plant type is important** – Since butterflies taste with their feet, they like to stand as they feed. Butterflies prefer flat-topped or clustered blossoms that have ample space for landing and perching. Since their proboscis is average in length, butterflies like blooms that have short flower tubes, not deep-throated or drooping flowers.

❁ **Plant for continuous bloom** - Butterflies need nectar throughout the adult phase of their life span. Try to plant so that when one plant stops blooming, another begins.

❁ **Avoid herbicides and pesticides** – These lawn care and plant maintenance products contain chemicals that kill butterflies and other beneficial insects in both their adult and larval phases.

❁ **Provide a place to rest** – Butterflies need sun for orientation and to warm their bodies for flight. Place flat stones in your garden to provide space for butterflies to rest and bask in the sun.

❁ **Give them a place for puddling** – Butterflies often congregate on wet sand and mud to partake in “puddling”, drinking water and extracting minerals from damp puddles. Place coarse sand in a shallow pan and then insert the pan in the soil of your habitat. Make sure to keep the sand moist.

❁ **Get them to stay** – To ensure that butterflies will take up residence in your habitat rather than just pass through, your garden should include “host plants” that serve as larval (caterpillar) food. Many butterfly caterpillars are picky eaters, preferring only one species of plant to feed on, while others will eat a variety of host plants. See the following pages for helpful plant lists.

