

# Garden for the Butterflies

## Where are all the butterflies?

Entomologists claim that the use of pesticides, loss of native plant species, and destruction of natural habitat are the cause of declining butterfly population. You can help save the butterfly population . . . with a little effort, you can create an area that is favorable for butterfly survival and reproduction.



## A small garden space, a large field, or just a few containers can provide resources for butterflies.

In order to support a full butterfly life cycle, you should select a variety of nectar and caterpillar host plants. It is also important to select a variety of nectar plants, so that some of them are always in bloom throughout the season. This will ensure a continuous succession of flying visitors.



**For best results, plant your flowers in full sun,** with a minimum of six hours of sun per day.

In addition, choose a site that is sheltered from the winds. Butterflies need the sun to warm themselves, but they won't want to feed in an area where they are constantly fighting the wind to stay on the plants. It is also a good idea to place a few flat stones in your sunny

location, so the butterflies can take a break while warming up. Butterflies need water just like we do. Keep a mud puddle damp in a sunny location or fill a bucket with sand and enough water to make the sand moist.

## Don't use chemical pesticides.

Pesticides kill butterflies,



caterpillars, and other useful insects. Instead, plant marigolds, petunias, mint, and other herbs that naturally repel pests. Encourage other beneficial insects such as ladybugs and dragonflies. If necessary, wash pests away with natural insecticidal soap.



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# Butterfly Garden Plants

Butterfly Species	Caterpillar Host Plant	Nectar Plants
American Lady	Pearly everlasting, pussy toes, artemesia,	coneflower, black-eyed susan
Eastern Black Swallowtail	Parsley, fennel, rue	Phlox, milkweed,
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	Black cherry, spicebush, ash, dill, tulip tree, sweet bay, magnolia	Liatris, beebalm, phlox, milkweed, butterfly bush, mexican sunflower
Great Spangled Fritillary	Violets	Purple coneflower, joe-pye weed, ironweed, black-eyed susan, beebalm
Monarch	Milkweed (Asclepias species)	Purple coneflower, liatris, goldenrod, milkweed, joe-pye weed, asters, butterfly bush, Mexican sunflower
Mourning Cloak	Cottonwood, elm, hackberry, willow	Beebalm, milkweed
Painted Lady	Hollyhocks, globe thistle	Asters, phlox, liatris, beebalm, joe-pye weed
Pearl Crescent	Asters	Black-eyed susan, asters, mints, milkweed
Question Mark	Elm, nettles, hop vine, false nettles	Milkweed, rotten fruits, red clover, asters
Red Admiral	Nettles pellitory, false nettles	Coreopsis, phlox, asters, mints, milkweed
Red-spotted Purple	Black cherry, hawthorn, apple, willow	Red clover, liatris, common boneset
Silver-spotted Skipper	False indigo, locust, wis-teria	Purple coneflower, liatris, joe-pye weed
Spicebush Swallowtail	Spicebush, sassafras	Purple coneflower, joe-pye weed, milkweed
Spring Azure	Viburnum, dogwood, black cherry	Spicebush, mints, milkweed