

Butterfly Gardening Info Sheet

The first thing to consider for your butterfly garden is the proper location in your yard. The ideal spot is a quiet, undisturbed location that is within view, exposed to the sun, and protected from wind. Butterflies are cold-blooded: they need sunlight to warm their flying muscles. Also, keep in mind, that you cannot use pesticides when gardening for butterflies.

It is also important that you provide water for the butterflies. Construct at least one puddle area for the butterflies because they cannot drink from open water. You can make a watering area by adding sand to a bird bath or a clay saucer filled with water. The sand will reduce the depth. A resting spot for butterflies can be provided by placing a rock in the center of the sand and water. The butterflies will drink from the moist sand, so you should not have any standing water above the sand line.

If you don't have the space in your yard for a butterfly garden, you can still attract butterflies with a few well chosen plants in a limited size container that also provides water for the butterflies.

You need two types of plants for your butterfly garden: nectar plants for the adult butterflies, and larval plants for the caterpillar stage of the butterfly.

Selection of plants and trees for Your Butterfly Garden:

Flowers that attract butterflies are brightly colored, single flowers that are not too deep and are wide enough for good perching platforms. Choose plants with staggered blooming times so that you have blooms available throughout the warm months.

Caterpillars are very host specific. Butterflies will only lay eggs on specific plants.

Four stages of butterfly development are egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa) and adult. To order chrysalis and adult butterflies call Greathouse Butterfly Farm at 1-866-475-2088.

Be sure to visit our butterfly house.

Some of our more common butterflies and their host plants:

	<u>Adult life expectancy</u>
Monarch: milkweed	3 wks - 6 months
Queen: milkweed	4-6 wks
Zebra Long-wing: passion vine	1-6 months
Gulf fritillary: passion vine	1-3 weeks
Julia: passion vine	10-21 days
Giant Swallowtail:	
Citrus, White soap	5days-2weeks
Black Swallowtail:	
dill, fennel, parsley	5days -2weeks
Pipevine Swallowtail: pipevine	1-2 weeks
Polydamas Swallowtail: pipevine	1-3 weeks
Sulphur: cassias	5-10 days
White Peacock:	
water hyssop (bacopa)	10 days- 2 weeks
Atala: zamia	3-10days
Buckeye: plantain (ribwort grass)	5 days - 3 weeks
Painted Lady: milk thistle, hollyhock	

Some more common nectar plants:

Pentas(especially red)	Salvia (native and non)
Porterweed	Lantana
Firecracker	Firebush (native)
Impatiens	Yarrow
Buddleia	Daisies
Gaillardia (native)	Coreopsis (native)
Mexican Heather	Verbena

Rockledge Gardens



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Open Mon-Sat 9 am-6 pm • Sun (Feb-May) 11 am-4 pm

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