

Butterfly Basics

Where do they come from?



Butterflies have 4 stages of life. They begin as an egg, then turn into a caterpillar, a chrysalis and then finally a butterfly.

After mating the female butterfly searches for a suitable “host” plant on which to lay her eggs. A few days later a caterpillar emerges and begins to eat leafy green plants.

Once the caterpillar is fully grown it changes into a chrysalis. The chrysalis are usually attached to a plant stem and are protected by surrounding plants. It is inside this chamber that the butterfly is formed.

Once it emerges from the chrysalis, the butterfly begins to search for nectar-rich flowers to feed upon and shallow areas of water to drink from.

Providing butterflies with everything they need from the time it lays its eggs to when it emerges from the chrysalis and begins to feed will greatly increase your chances of attracting butterflies to your garden.



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Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden



Make your garden more attractive to butterflies by creating a habitat that meets all of their needs.



Monarch butterfly on the flower of a Butterfly Bush.

- 1. Location.** Choose an area with full sun and remember to place the garden where you will be able to view and enjoy it.
- 2. Plants.** Butterflies prefer a garden that has large masses of color. Choose plants that bloom at different times to keep butterflies and caterpillars interested all season long. Planting tall and short plants will create a safe area for the butterflies to rest away from wind and rain and provide a shady spot for when temperatures are high.
- 3. Food & Water.** Choose nectar-rich flowers as well as leafy plants for when butterflies are in their caterpillar state. Butterflies drink their water from shallow puddles of water. An area of damp sand or mud is best.

Plants that Attract Butterflies

It is important to attract butterflies throughout all of the stages of its life and to create a garden that contains flowers that bloom all season long. Below is a list on annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs to help you accomplish this task.

Perennials

Perennials are plants that come back every year.

Aster	Daylily	Milkweed
Bee Balm	Gaillardia	Phlox
Black-Eyed Susans	Goldenrod	Sedum
Butterfly Weed	Joe-Pye weed	Verbena
Coneflower	Lavender	Veronica
Coreopsis	Liatris	Yarrow

Annuals

Annuals survive until the frost.

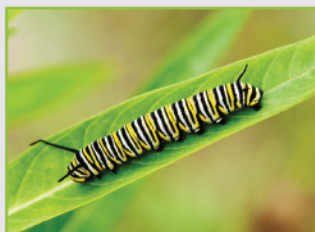
Cosmos	Hollyhock	Petunia
Herbs	Lantana	Snapdragon
Dill	Marigold	Sunflower
Cilantro	Mexican Sunflower	Verbena
Parsley	Pentas	Zinnia
Heliotrope		

Trees & Shrubs

Abelia	Clethra	Lilac
Azalea	Dogwood tree	Mountain Laurel
Blue Mist Shrub	Honey Suckle	Rhododendron
Butterfly Bush		

Great Plants for the Caterpillar Stage

Butterfly weed	Mallow
Herbs such as: parsley, cilantro, dill, fennel	Milkweed Sunflower Yarrow



Caterpillar on Milkweed leaf.



“Butterflies are self-propelled flowers.”
- R.H. Heinlein.



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