

Creating a Butterfly Garden

For caterpillars, the larval stage of butterflies, plant selection is especially important. You'll need to include host plants that attract adult butterflies for egg laying, as many species are very particular about where they lay their eggs. Once the caterpillars emerge, they will feed on the foliage of these plants, so it's important to provide enough to support both their appetite and the overall look of your garden. Planning for this natural feeding process is key to creating a successful and sustainable butterfly habitat.

Nectar Plants That Attract Adult Butterflies

Annuals

Ageratum (*Ageratum houstonianum*)
Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*), 'Sensation'
Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*)
Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
Marigold, French marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)
Nicotiana, Flowering Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)
Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*) – Subshrub
Petunia (*Petunia x hybrida*)
Scabiosa, Pincushion Flower (*S. atropurpurea*)
Statice (*Limonium sinuatum*)
Verbena (*V. x hortensis*, *V. x hybrida*)
Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)

Perennials – Early Season

Allium (*Allium* spp.) – Bulb
Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)
Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis sylvatica*) – biennial, perennial

Perennials – Mid-Season

Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
Black-eyed Susan, Gloriosa Daisy (*Rudbeckia* spp.) – biennial, perennial
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Catmint (*Nepeta racemosa*)
Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.)
Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
Liatris, Blazing-star, Gay-feather (*Liatris* spp.)
Lily (*Lilium* spp.)
Phlox (*Phlox* spp.)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.)
Veronica (*Veronica* spp.)
Yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*)

Perennials – Late Season

Aster (*Aster* spp.)
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*)
Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)
Obedient plant (*Physotegia virginiana*)
Sedum (*Sedum spectabile*)
Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)

Butterfly Larval Plants

Butterfly Species

Black Swallowtail
Tiger Swallowtail
Monarch Butterfly
Great Spangled Fritillary
Buckeye
Morning Cloak
Viceroy
Red-Spotted Purple
Hackberry Butterfly

Larval Food

Carrots, Parsley, Dill
Wild Cherry, Birch, Poplar, Apple Trees, Tulip Tree
Milkweeds, Butterfly Weed
Violets
Snapdragon
Willows, Elms
Pussy Willow, Plums, Cherries
Willows, Poplars
Hackberry