



CREATING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN



Butterflies are some of nature's most beautiful and interesting creatures. Invite these captivating insects into your landscape by establishing your own butterfly garden. Before you begin, there are few things you need to know. Butterflies are looking for two things when they enter a garden: 1) nectar, food for adult butterflies, and 2) host plants that provide a place for females to lay eggs and food for the butterfly larvae (caterpillars). Many of our native butterflies prefer plants with pink, red, purple, yellow or orange flowers and appear to be attracted to areas with large masses of a single color rather than a mixture of many colors. Most butterflies must land in order to get to the nectar. They prefer clusters of short tubular flowers, or flowers with large flat petals. With continuous blooming in the garden, butterflies will visit from spring until frost.

LOCATION & DESIGN



Butterflies love sun. Butterflies, as well as the plants they prefer, like bright sunny areas (at least 6 hours) protected from high winds.



A place to catch some rays. On cool mornings, butterflies need to warm their bodies before they can become active. They often sit on a reflective surface such as a flat stone, spread their wings, and turn their backs to the sun. Their wings work like solar panels, absorbing the sun's warmth.



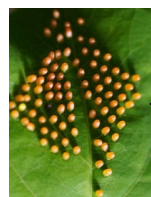
Butterflies eat dirt. To obtain minerals that are found in the soil, butterflies often gather in groups and feed on wet sand or mud. This activity is called "puddling." Place a shallow pan in the soil, fill it with coarse sand, and keep it moist to create a puddling place in your butterfly garden.

HOST PLANTS Because tiny caterpillars cannot travel far to find their own food, the female locates and lays her eggs on plants that the caterpillar can use as food. Many native trees and other plants found in and around your landscape are host plants for caterpillars, however, there are a variety of plants that can be added to the garden to serve as host plants.

ALFALFA
ASTER
BRONZE FENNEL
CABBAGE
DILL
DOGWOOD
EASTERN REDBUD
OAK TREES
MILKWEED

MUSTARD
POPLAR
RIVER BIRCH
SPICE BUSH
SUNFLOWER
SWITCHGRASS
TURTLEHEAD
VIBURNUM
WILLOW

BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE



Egg



Larva / Caterpillar



Pupa / Chrysalis



Adult



PESTICIDES

Avoid using toxins that kill a broad spectrum of insects, especially those specific to caterpillars. Plan for some feeding by caterpillars, and place host plants where leaf damage can be tolerated aesthetically. Welcome praying mantis, lady bugs, and lacewings that will feed on unwanted pests.

NECTAR PLANTS When selecting plants for a butterfly garden, choose a variety of heights, growing habits, and bloom times from spring through fall.



PERENNIALS

- Ageratum
- Aster*
- Baptisia
- Bee Balm
- Black-Eyed Susan*
- Butterfly Weed*
- Chives
- Coneflower*
- Coreopsis*
- Daylily
- Hibiscus
- Holly Hock
- Joe-Pye Weed*
- Lantana*
- Liatris
- Milkweed

ANNUALS

- Impatiens
- Marigold
- Sunflower*
- Verbena*
- Queen Anne’s Lace
- Zinnia

SHRUBS & TREES

- Abelia Glossy*
- Blueberry
- Buckeye
- Buddleia
- Clethra
- Mock Orange
- Pear
- Plum
- Redbud
- Rose of Sharon
- Spiraea



Sky Rocket Juniper



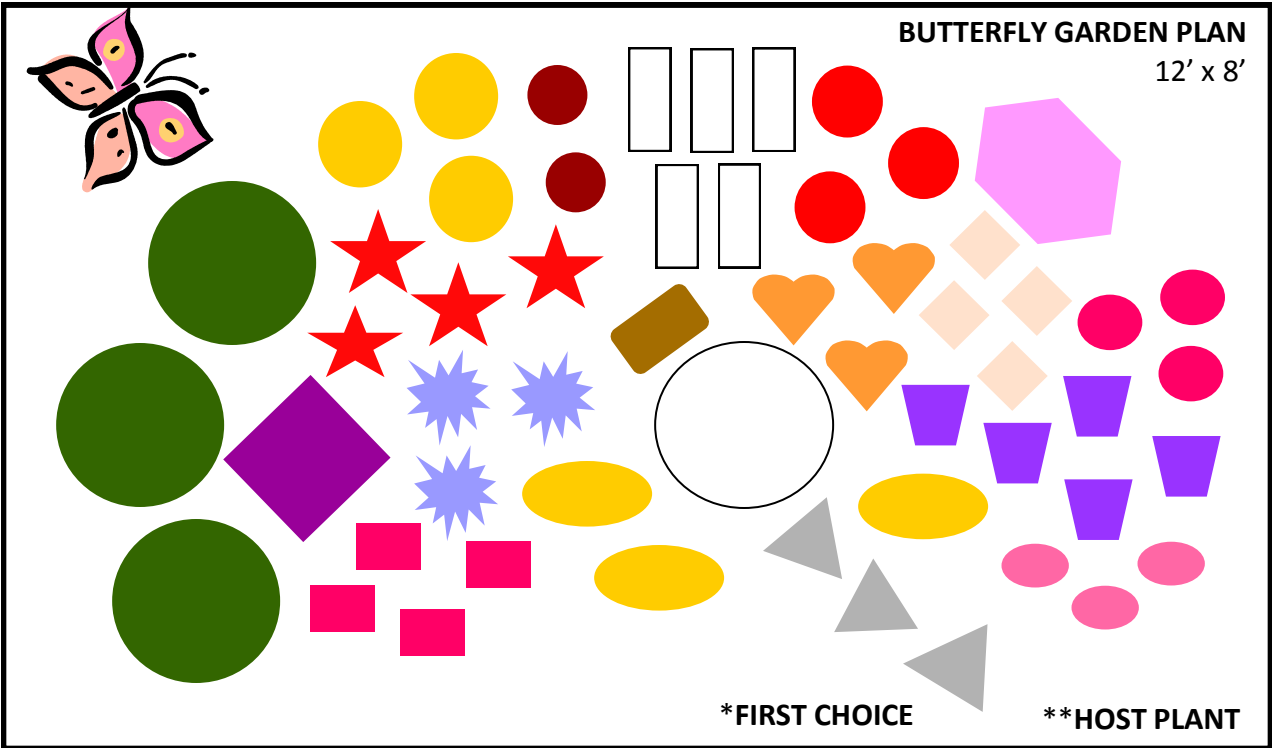
Butterfly Bush



Creeping Phlox



Stokes Aster**



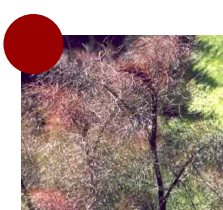
Red Sage



Lantana



Black-Eyed Susan



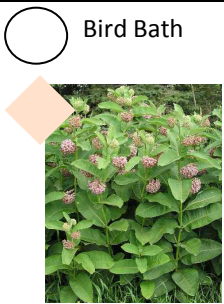
Fennel**



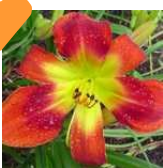
Phlox



Bee Balm



Milkweed**



Day Lily



Abelia



Coneflower



Salvia



Verbena