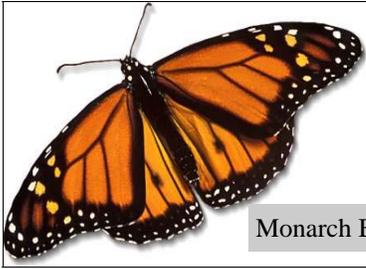




ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO THE GARDEN



Monarch Butterfly

Why do we see so few butterflies in our neighborhoods? The very short answer to that question is loss of habitat. Our county is so developed we have paved over and built on much of the land. Even where we landscape, we too often are not thinking of nature when we do. With a little thought, knowledge, and effort it's easy to garden for butterflies!

Basically, all we need is...

- a sunny, preferably wind-protected area
- nectar rich flowers for butterflies
- food for caterpillars
- wet sand or puddle
- avoiding use of pesticides

When choosing a site for a butterfly garden, it's a good idea to place it a where you'll be able to see it often – by a front porch or backyard deck, even an often looked out window. The flowers are beautiful and the butterflies are wonderful to watch!

Plant your butterfly-attractive plants in drifts or clusters rather than individually. It's pleasing to our eyes and it's easier for butterflies to hone in on. Consider bloom times. You'll want a continuous season of blooming flowers for butterflies from early spring right through to fall. Late season is especially important for migrating butterflies so they can fatten up for their trip south. Plants such as goldenrods and asters are beautiful in autumn and are butterfly magnets!

All butterflies spend part of their lives as caterpillars. Caterpillars are voracious eaters, so if we want butterflies to lay eggs in our gardens, we need to supply some plants for the caterpillars. Caterpillars don't eat just anything, however, so don't worry about your garden being devoured by these 'eating machines'. Most tend to be very specific about what they will eat. Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed and Black Swallowtail caterpillars eat plants in the carrot family such as parsley and fennel, for example.

Wet sand or a mud puddle supplies minerals and nutrients and a large flat rock placed in it can serve as a nice basking area for the butterflies to warm themselves. Being insects, they are 'cold-blooded' and have to get their temperature up each day before they can fly.

Finally, all insecticides kill butterflies. No matter how safe or natural an insecticide claims to be, if it kills insects, it kills butterflies!

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

That's really all you need to know to get started. Start a small garden with a mix of annuals and perennials the first year for instant blooms, perhaps adding more perennials as time goes by. Once you've created a beautiful habitat for butterflies in your garden you'll enjoy it all season long, year after year, and so will the visiting butterflies!

Plants That Attract Butterflies

This is only a partial list. There are many other butterfly-attractive plants. These are some easy-to-grow favorites.

Nectar Plants

" * " designates a native plant.

"H" designates plants that are also attractive to hummingbirds.

ANNUALS

	Botanical Name	Common Name
H	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Mexican sunflower
*	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	Sunflower
H	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon
H	<i>Tagetes spp.</i>	Marigold
	<i>Cosmos spp.</i>	Cosmos
H	<i>Nicotiana spp.</i>	Flowering tobacco
H	<i>Zinnia spp.</i>	Zinnia
	<i>Bidens ferulifolia</i>	Bidens
H	<i>Salvia spp.</i>	Salvia
H	<i>Heliotrope arborescens</i>	Heliotrope
H	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana
H	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	Hollyhock
H	<i>Petunia x hybrida</i>	Petunia
H	<i>Pentax lanceolata</i>	Starflower
*H	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	Verbena or rose vervain
H	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Tall or Brazilian verbena

PERENNIALS

	Botanical Name	Common Name
*	<i>Aster spp.</i>	Aster
*H	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee balm
*	<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>	Black-eyed Susan
*	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed
*	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	Coreopsis or Tickweed
H	<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Daylily
*H	<i>Liatris spp.</i>	Gayfeather or blazing star
*	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrod
*	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple coneflower
*	<i>Eupatorium coelestinium</i>	Wild or hardy ageratum, mist flower
*	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Joe-pye weed
	<i>Lavandula spp.</i>	Lavender
*H	<i>Phlox spp.</i>	Phlox
H	<i>Scabiosa spp.</i>	Pincushion flower
	<i>Sedum spp.</i>	Stonecrop
	<i>Certostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Leadwort or false plumbago

	Botanical Name	Common Name
	<i>Veronica spp.</i>	Veronica
*	<i>Achillea spp.</i>	Yarrow

WOODY PLANTS

	Botanical Name	Common Name
H	<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	Blue mist shrub
*	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood
H	<i>Buddleia spp.</i>	Butterfly bush
H	<i>Syringa spp.</i>	Lilac
	<i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	Rhododendron and azalea
*H	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain laurel
*	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush
*	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush
H	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia

Fruit trees - disease resistant varieties

LARVAL HOST PLANTS—provide a food source for butterfly larvae (caterpillars).

FOR BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLIES

Parsley, carrot, cilantro, wild carrot, Queen Anne’s Lace, fennel, caraway, rue, dill

FOR PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLIES

Sunflower, borage, hollyhock, yarrow, mallow, wormwood

FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Asclepias spp. - milkweed; *A. incarnata* - swamp milkweed; *A. tuberosa* - butterfly weed; *curassavica* - blood-flower

FOR OTHER BUTTERFLIES

Great Spangled Fritillary Butterfly: violets
 Common Buckeye Butterfly: snapdragon, monkey flower, verbena
 Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly: *Aristolochia spp.* - Dutchman's Pipe Vine
 Clouded Sulphur & Eastern Tailed Blue Butterfly: peas, clover & other legumes
 Pearl Crescent Butterfly: aster
 Mourning Cloak Butterfly: willows, elms, birches
 Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly: spicebush, sassafras
 Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly: cherry, tulip tree, ash, birch, willow
 Gray Hairstreak Butterfly: clover, mallow, hollyhock
 Various Skippers: wood nymphs
 Satyrs: grasses, sedges

Plant list compiled by Master Gardener Reva Tucker

This publication may pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold, and/or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialist or your regional DEC office. **READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE.**

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Source: http://www.ccenassau.org/hort/html/butterfly_plants.html