



Butterflies are among the most magical creatures that grace our gardens. The easiest way to attract these beauties is to **create a complete habitat** for them, from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis and finally to adult butterfly. All that is required is plenty of **food** (nectar producing and host plants), **sunlight**, **water**, and **protection** from strong winds.

Locate your butterfly garden in an area with at least 6 hours of direct sun. If you have a hedge, fence, slope, or wood pile in a sunny area, try locating your garden there. These barriers will create a warm, sheltered site. Butterflies like to bask in the morning sun until their body temperature warms enough for them to fly. Add a flat, dark-colored stone or a bit of sand for **sun bathing**.

While it is not absolutely necessary for you to provide water for butterflies, a small **puddle** or shallow saucer filled with moist sand sunk into the ground may help. Butterflies do drink water through their proboscis, but it is usually sipped from damp soil surfaces rather than out of a deep puddle. When butterflies congregate around mud puddles, they are gathering extra nutrients, amino acids and salt rather than water.

To attract the greatest number of butterflies, you need two types of food sources, **host plants (H)**, as well as **nectar-producers (N)**. The female butterfly will land on a host plant and lay her eggs, which will hatch into larvae (caterpillars). These caterpillars will consume the host plant until they are ready to spin a chrysalis in which the pupa grows. The adult butterfly will emerge from the chrysalis in 7-10 days looking for nectar sources. Tall grasses, weeds, native wildflowers and mass plantings of diverse flower types provide the food and shelter upon which butterflies thrive. Try a variety of plants including annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs. **Fragrant (F)**, bright to pastel colored flowers with multiple florets are excellent butterfly attractants, along with daisy shaped flowers with prominent centers and long petals. Planting herbs among your flowers will also be very attractive to the butterflies. Most importantly, remember to keep your butterfly garden chemical free; providing a healthy environment to return again and again. Select early (E), middle (M), and late season (L) blooming plants from the list below to attract butterflies from spring to fall:

## Trees and Shrubs

*Buddleia* (Butterfly Bush) L, F, N  
*Cercis* (Redbud) E, H  
*Clethra* (Summersweet) M, F  
*Cornus* (Dogwood) E, H  
*Itea* (Sweetspire) E-M, F  
*Magnolia* (Sweetbay) M, H  
*Potentilla* M-L, N  
*Quercus* (Oak) E-L, H  
*Rhododendron* (Azalea) E, N  
*Salix* (Willow) H  
*Spiraea* E-L, N  
*Syringa* (Lilac) E, F  
*Viburnum* E-M, F, H  
*Wisteria* E, F, H

## Perennials

*Achillea* (Yarrow) M-L, F  
*Agastache* (Anise Hyssop) M, F, N  
*Alcea* (Hollyhock) M, H  
*Aquilegia* (Columbine) E  
*Asclepias* (Butterfly Weed) L, H, N  
*Aster* L, N, H  
*Astilbe* M, N  
*Baptisia* (False Indigo) E, H, N  
*Centaurea* (Bachelor's Button) E  
*Coreopsis* (Tickseed) M-L, N

## Perennials continued

Daisies (*Echinacea*, *Gaillardia*,  
*Leucanthemum*, *Helenium*, *Heliopsis*,  
*Rudbeckia*, etc.) M-L, N  
*Dianthus* (perennial & annual) E, F  
*Erigeron* (Fleabane) E-M, N  
*Echinops* (Globe Thistle) M, H  
*Eupatorium* (Joe-Pye Weed) L, N  
*Geranium* (perennial) M, N  
*Hemerocallis* (Daylily) M, N  
*Iberis* (Candytuft) E, F  
*Lavandula* (Lavender) M, F  
*Liatris* (Blazing Star/Gayfeather) M, N  
*Lilium* (Oriental Lily) M, F  
*Lupinus* E, H  
*Lychnis* (Campion, Maltese Cross) M  
*Monarda* (Bee Balm) M, N  
*Nepeta* (Catmint) M, N  
Ornamental Grasses M-L, H  
*Phlox* (perennial & annual) E-M, N  
*Salvia* (perennial, annual & herb) F  
*Scabiosa* E-M, N  
*Sedum* M-L, N  
*Solidago* (Goldenrod) L, N  
*Stokesia* M, N  
*Trollius* (Globe Flower) E-M, N  
*Veronica* M, N

## Annuals and Herbs (E-L)

*Ageratum* N  
*Allium* (Chives) H  
*Antheum* (Dill) H  
*Bidens* N  
Brassicac (Broccoli, Cabbage, etc.) H  
*Cleome* N  
*Foeniculum* (Fennel) H  
*Gomphrena* N  
*Heliotrope* F  
*Impatiens* N  
*Lantana* F, N  
*Lobularia* (Sweet Alyssum) F  
*Mentha* (Mint) F  
*Nicotiana* F, N  
*Origanum* (Oregano) F  
*Pentas* N  
*Petroselinum* (Parsley) H  
Rosemary F  
Snapdragons N  
*Tagetes* (Marigold) N  
*Thymus* (*Thyme*) F  
Tomato N  
*Tropaeolum* (Nasturtium) H  
*Verbena* N  
*Viola/Pansy* E&L, H, N  
*Zinnia* N