

Top Host Plants for Caterpillars:

Milkweeds Carrot Family
 Alfalfa Cabbage Family
 Legumes Grasses

Top Nectar Flowers for Butterflies:

Milkweeds Liatris
 Purple Coneflower New England Aster
 Joe-Pye Weed Hyssop

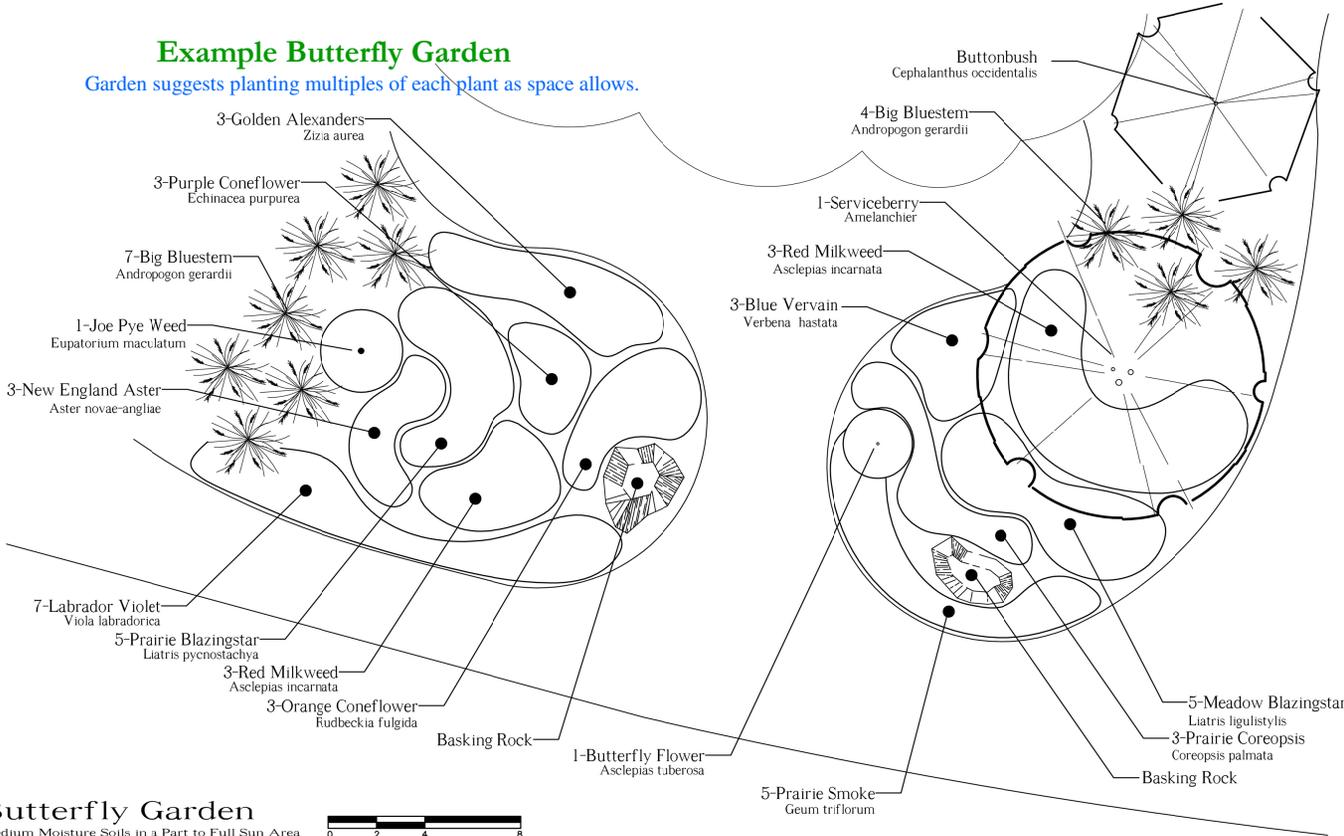


Gardening for Butterflies



Example Butterfly Garden

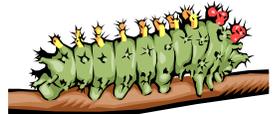
Garden suggests planting multiples of each plant as space allows.



Butterfly Garden

Medium Moisture Soils in a Part to Full Sun Area

The Quarry Hill Butterfly Garden and above example were designed by Jeff Feece of Sargent's Landscaping Design and Garden Center



Container Gardening for Butterflies:

Even if you just have a deck or patio, you can still attract butterflies. Some good annual nectar sources include:

Cosmos Marigold
 Sweet Alyssum Heliotrope
 Zinnia Aster
 Salvia Sweet William

Hours:

Tour the butterfly garden anytime during park hours.
 The park is open year-round dawn to dusk.

Nature Center hours are:

Monday — Saturday: 9am– 5pm
 Sundays & Holidays: 12pm– 5pm
 Visit our website for summer hours www.QHNC.org

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Quarry Hill Nature Center

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If you plant it they will come — after all home is where the food is. Flowers will bring in butterflies for a visit, but with food plants for caterpillars, butterflies will take up residence.

Gardening for butterflies not only brings an exciting new dimension to your home landscaping, it also provides needed habitat to one of nature’s most celebrated insects!

Butterfly Garden Characteristics

Sunny Location

Butterflies are cold blooded and depend on the sun to warm the muscles necessary for flight. An ideal location for a butterfly garden would be one that receives early morning sun and receives at least 6 hours full sun during the day.

Moisture

Like all living things butterflies require water. You may notice butterflies sipping morning dew off leaves or gathering around puddle edges and moist dirt. One way to provide water is to sink a shallow dish filled with sand to collect water. Add rocks for the butterflies to perch on.

Rocks

Large rocks heat up quickly and retain heat, providing a great basking spot for butterflies to warm their small bodies.

Shelter

Butterflies need protection from the weather. Trees, shrubs and tall grasses are an important dimension to a butterfly garden. They provide protection from strong winds as well as spots for hiding from predators.

Overwintering Spots

Butterflies that endure Minnesota winters benefit from shelters. Consider placing a leaf pile, woodpile or a store bought butterfly house in a sheltered location near your garden to house these hardy butterflies.

Chemical Free

Insecticides and herbicides can be deadly to butterflies, especially to the caterpillars. Be careful and thoughtful about chemicals you might use around your garden. Of course chemical-free is the best plan.

Cater to Caterpillars

Caterpillars are picky eaters, some having as few as one plant that will host or feed them. Flowers and many trees can act as host plants. Butterflies will seek out the plants that their caterpillars will eat and lay their eggs there. Providing food sources for caterpillars will greatly increase the usefulness and attractiveness of your garden to butterflies.

A Veritable Butterfly Buffet

Butterflies have different preferences for nectar plants, in both color and taste. A wide variety of nectar plants will give the greatest diversity of visitors. Grouping the same species together makes it easier for a butterfly to see their favorite food. Stagger bloom times in your garden to ensure there’s something to eat all season long.

Locals Like to Eat the Local Food

Strive to select plants and seeds that are native to your area to entice the largest number of native butterflies. In addition to being the preferred nectar source, these plants are best adapted for the local climate and soil; and to resist predators and disease.

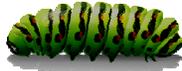


Conservation

One of nature’s most celebrated and recognized butterflies needs our help! Find out how you can help by certifying your butterfly garden as an official Monarch Waystation, at:

www.monarchwatch.org

Join in the nationwide annual Audubon Butterfly Count. It’s a fun way to learn about local butterflies and help scientist study local populations. Visit Audubon’s local chapter www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org for more information.

Butterfly	Host Plant (Caterpillar Needs)		Nectar Plant (Butterfly Needs)	
Painted Lady	Thistle, Composites, Mallows		Aster, Blazing Star, Common Milkweed Buttonbush, Purple Coneflower	
Cabbage White	Nasturtium		Asters, Cosmos, Clover	
Common Buckeye	Plantain, Figwort, Stonecrop		Aster, Swamp Milkweed, Tall Verbena	
Eastern Black Swallowtail	Queen Ann’s Lace & other members of the carrot family (carrot, dill and parsley)		Phlox, Milkweed	
Eastern Tailed Blue	Legumes, Clovers, Beans		Milkweed, Aster, Zinnia	
Great Spangled Fritillary	Violets		Coneflowers, Bee balm, Milkweed, Ironweed	
Monarch	Milkweeds		Milkweed, Blazing Star, Goldenrod, Zinnia	
Mourning Cloak	Willow, Elm, Cottonwood, Hackberry		Daisy, Rotting fruit, Tree sap, Milkweed	
Orange Sulfur	Vetch, White Clover		Goldenrod, Common Milkweed, Aster	
Pearl Crescent	Aster		Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Milkweed, Purple Coneflower	
Red Admiral	Nettles		Rotting Fruit, Dandelion, Clover, Aster	
Tiger Swallowtail	Variety of broadleaf trees & shrubs Willow, Ash, Cottonwood, Birch, Cherry		Milkweed, Phlox, Bee balm, Lilac	