



Attracting Butterflies

By Jeff Wittler

NatureScaping
Wildlife Botanical Gardens

Butterflies! Depicted throughout history as symbols of awe-inspiring beauty, few animal species have evoked such strong feelings of peace and happiness in the human heart. In addition, to the aesthetic and esoteric qualities of butterflies, they are also an important source of plant pollinators, an important link in the food chain, as well as indicators of environmental quality for humans. Despite all of these characteristics, butterfly habitat is declining due to land development and widespread use of pesticides. Some North American species have already become extinct. Many more are listed as Threatened or Endangered Species. For this reason, creating your own Butterfly Garden could be an important act in stopping the decline of these wonderful creatures.

Making Your Own Butterfly Garden

As with attracting all wildlife, butterflies need a complete habitat for all life cycle stages to survive.

Food, Water, Shelter, Space are the basic components of their habitat. When planning a Butterfly Garden careful attention to these needs will reward you with the company of our “Flying Flowers”.

1. Finding the right place....

Evaluate your yard for sun, shade, and water availability for plants. Determine where the garden and butterflies would be visible and enjoyable to you.

2. Choosing the right plants...

Become familiar with plants butterflies like (see *chart on back of this page*). They are attracted to flowers by color and fragrance. You may already have some plants growing in your yard.

3. Planning the garden...

Begin by drawing up what is called a “bubble diagram”. Place the plants according to sun/shade requirements and heights, tall in back and around the sides with shorter towards the front. Arrange in clumps. Intersperse early

**Grow lots of nectar plants
Caterpillar (larval) food plants
Choose a sunny location and
Provide sheltered areas from wind**

bloomers with late bloomers to avoid flowerless spots. Before planting, place the plants in their containers where they belong in their containers where they belong in the garden. Check to see if the arrangement pleases you.

4. Don't forget water... Since Butterflies can't drink from open water, mud puddles should be created to satisfy their need for moisture.

5. Now you're ready to plant!

Avoid using herbicides and insecticides. It may take some time for the 'Butters' to find your garden, so be patient.

References

NatureScaping – A Place for Wildlife	OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Butterfly Gardening	WA Dept. of Wildlife
The Butterfly Book	Donald & Lillian Stokes
Audubon Guide to N.A. Butterflies	Robert Pyle
The Butterfly Garden	Tekulsky
Western Garden Book	Sunset
Butterflies of N.A.— Natural History & Field Guide	James Scott

**Butterfly Plants
on back**

For more information on our classes, visit our web site: www.naturescaping.org, call us at 360-737-1160 or email us at: Info@naturescaping.org. Make a contribution, volunteer, or become a member and attend classes for free all year ~ you'll also receive our newsletter with articles on wildlife gardening and news on the Wildlife Botanical Gardens. Mailing address for NatureScaping SW Washington is PO Box 763, Brush Prairie 98606. The **Wildlife Botanical Gardens** are located at 11000 NE 149th Street, Brush Prairie, Washington 98606

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Butterfly Plants for the Vancouver/Portland Area

Common Name	Botanical	
Perennials		
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea spp</i>	*FN
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea (Althaea) spp</i>	LN
Allium, Onions	<i>Allium spp</i>	* N
Basket of Gold	<i>Alyssum saxatile (spp)</i>	N
Anemones	<i>Anemone spp</i>	*N
Dogbane	<i>Apocynum spp</i>	*N
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	FN
Aster	<i>Aster spp</i>	*FN
Camas Flower	<i>Camassia spp</i>	*N
Jupiter's Beard	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	FN
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	FN
Shasta Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	FN
Thistle	<i>Cirsium ssp.</i>	N
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis spp</i>	N
Sweet William	<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	N
Bleeding Heart	<i>Dicentra spp.</i>	*L
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	FN
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron spp</i>	*N
Joe-Pye-Weed	<i>Eupatorium spp</i>	N
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	L
Gaillardia	<i>Gaillardia spp</i>	N
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	N
Salt Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium spp</i>	N
Daylilies	<i>Hemerocallis, spp</i>	FN
Candy Tuft	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	N
Iris Blue Flag	<i>Iris spp.</i>	*N
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	FN
Blazing Stars	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	FN
Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp</i>	*LN
Mint	<i>Mentha spp</i>	FN
Bee -balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	FN
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	N
Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis spp</i>	N
Catmint	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	N
Wild Oregano	<i>Origanum spp</i>	N
Phlox	<i>Phlox spp</i>	* N
Grasses	<i>Poa, Panicum</i>	L
Knotweed	<i>Polygonum spp</i>	L
Self Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	*N
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	FN
Black Eye Susan	<i>Rudbeckia spp</i>	FN
Sorrel, dock	<i>Rumex spp</i>	L
Elderberries	<i>Sambucus spp</i>	*N
Pincushion Flower	<i>Scabiosa caucasica</i>	FN
Showy Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spectabile</i>	FLN
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp</i>	*FN
Thyme	<i>Thymus spp</i>	N
Clover	<i>Trifolium spp</i>	LN
Verbena	<i>Verbena spp</i>	N
Vetches	<i>Vicia spp</i>	*N
Violets	<i>Viola spp.</i>	LN

Common Name	Botanical	
Annuals		
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	L
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	FN
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	FN
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens walleriana</i>	
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	FN
Trailing Lantana	<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	FN
Statice	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	N
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	N
Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	FN
Petunia	<i>Petunia hybrida</i>	FN
French Marigold	<i>Tagetes patula</i>	FN
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	N
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum</i>	L
Zinnias	<i>Zinnia spp (singleflwr)</i>	FN
Shrubs		
Abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	FLN
Western Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	*N
Fountain butterfly bush	<i>Buddleia alternifolia</i>	N
Wild lilac	<i>Ceanothus sanguineus</i>	*LN
Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus velutinus</i>	*N
Dogwood	<i>Cornus spp</i>	*N
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria spp</i>	*N
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	*N
Ocean Spray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	*N
Wax-leaf Privet	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	FL
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus spp</i>	*L
Potentilla, Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla spp.</i>	N
Wild Roses	<i>Rosa spp.</i>	*N
Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	L
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium spp</i>	*N
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum spp</i>	*N
Trees		
Willow	<i>Salix spp</i>	*N
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus spp</i>	N
Red Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>	*N
Madrone	<i>Arbutus spp</i>	*N
Birch	<i>Betula spp</i>	N
Dogwood	<i>Cornus spp</i>	*N
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus spp</i>	*N
Ash	<i>Fraxinus spp</i>	*N
Apple	<i>Malus spp</i>	N
Poplars Aspen	<i>Populus spp</i>	*N
Cottonwood		
Bitter Cherry	<i>Prunus emarginata</i>	L
Cherry	<i>Prunus spp</i>	N
Oak	<i>Quercus sp</i>	*N
Western Red Cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	*N
Vines		
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	FN
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria spp</i>	N

Key: L=Larval, N=Nectar, F= Favorite, *=Native