

Make a Butterfly Garden

Enjoy butterflies all summer in your own butterfly garden. Ask your librarian or county extension office about butterflies in your area and the plants they feed on, or go to e-answers.adec.edu. Local garden centers may have pre-mixed butterfly garden seed packets to make choosing and planting easier. If you have limited space, create a mini butterfly garden by planting small quantities of flowers in a window box or other container. Supplement it with a small feeder and place it on a balcony or patio.

Tips for a Successful Butterfly Garden

- Choose a sunny, sheltered area.
- Plant seeds early in spring or buy seedlings for quicker results.
- Butterflies like brightly colored, fragrant flowers.
- Mix different plants together. Butterflies are attracted to flowers of the same general color in an area. Different blooming times will keep butterflies visiting all summer.
- Add a small container of sand and keep it wet for butterflies to drink.
- Add small rocks and twigs for butterflies to bask and roost on.
- Be sure your butterfly garden is free of insecticides or other harmful chemicals!
- To make a feeder, punch a small hole in the metal lid of a small glass jar and decorate the jar and lid with bright-colored fabric "flower petals." Keep in mind that it will hang upside down. Fill the jar with a solution of five parts water to one part sugar. Twirl part of a cotton ball into a wick and use it to plug the hole in the lid. Hang the feeder near your garden.

"Butterfly-friendly" Plants

- Lavender
- Marigolds
- Zinnias
- Phlox
- Sweet Alyssum
- Butterfly Bush
- Hollyhock
- Asters
- Dill
- Sunflowers
- Purple Cornflower
- Violets
- Nasturtiums
- Pansies
- Milkweed
- Petunias
- Bee Balm
- Lilies
- Yarrow
- Oregano

