

Plant Your Own Butterfly Garden

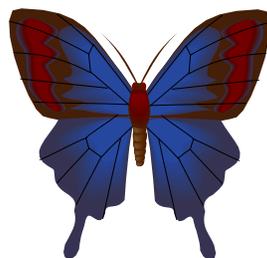


Want Monarch Butterflies near your school or home? Then plant a butterfly garden and bring butterflies to your area.

Tips:

1. Butterflies need direct **sunlight**. Butterflies are cold blooded, so they use the sun to warm up their bodies. Pick a sunny location for your garden, and place a few flat stones around so the butterflies can rest while warming up.
2. Butterflies need **water** just like we do. But instead of drinking from a faucet, they slurp up moisture from the soil. Butterflies prefer to land on moist dirt or sand on the sides of puddles, rather than directly in the water itself. Keep a mud puddle damp in your garden, or fill a bucket with sand and enough water to make the sand moist.
3. Do not use **pesticides** in your garden! Pesticides can harm butterflies, birds and other insects in your garden.
4. Butterflies are generally attracted to purple, orange, yellow or red **flowers**, but they are also attracted to areas with host plants on which they can lay eggs (the host plant for Monarch Butterflies is Milkweed).
5. Butterflies need **shelter** from weather, such as wind and rain, and a place to rest at night. Planting your garden near shrubs and trees will give them the shelter they need.
6. For maximum enjoyment, try to plant a **variety** of species (see list attached list) with different blooming times, colors and heights. This will create a garden that is not only interesting to look at, but will attract many kinds of butterflies for a longer period of time. Also, when picking out plants, make sure they are hardy and can make it through Wisconsin's cold winters. Here in Wisconsin, our climate ranges from zones 3a - 5b in vegetation hardiness.

When planning your garden, don't forget to plan an **observation spot** for you and your students to enjoy the results of all of your hard work! Butterfly gardens will also attract other nectar-feeding animals for you to watch. These include hummingbirds, bumblebees, and moths.





Plant Ideas



Always try to plant native species in your butterfly garden!

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Growth Type</u>	<u>Time of Bloom</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Bird's-foot Violet	<i>Viola pedata</i>	Wild Perennial	Spring	Blue	One of 80 species of violet found in North America.
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Wild Perennial	August	Yellow	Originally a prairie plant now found in just about any habitat.
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Wild Perennial	Late Summer	White	Easily identified by its large crinkled leaves.
Butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Wild Perennial	Spring, summer	Orange	Tuberosa, refers to the large taproot, which makes this plant almost impossible to transplant
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Perennial	Spring, Summer	Red and yellow	A favorite of hummingbirds.
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Wild Perennial	June -August	Lavender	Essential to Monarch caterpillars.
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Wild Perennial	Summer	White	Native of Eurasia and North America.
Cup Plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Wild Perennial	Summer/Fall	Yellow	The joined leaves form "cups" which hold rainwater days after it rains.
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Wild Perennial	Summer/Fall	Yellow	Biennial plant.
Joe-pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Wild Perennial	Summer	Pink	Also called Spotted Joe-pye Weed because the stem has purple spots.
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	Wild Perennial	September	Lavender	Heavily visited by migrating Monarchs.
Prairie Blazing Star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Wild Perennial	Summer	Purple	Also called Prairie Gayfeather.
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Wild Perennial	Summer/Fall	Purple	One of the American Goldfinch's favorites.
Rough Blazing Star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Wild Perennial	Summer/Fall	Purple	Blooms 3 weeks later than Prairie Blazing Star.
Stiff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Wild Perennial	August	Yellow	Round fleshy leaves differentiate this plant from other goldenrods.
Wild Blue Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Wild Perennial	April	Pale blue	Also called Wood Phlox.
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	Annual	Summer	Multi-colored	Tough, tall and easy to grow.
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens wallerana</i>	Annual	Summer	Multi-colored	Fast growing flower that needs part shade to shade.
Marigold	<i>Tagetes erecta</i>	Annual	April	Yellow, orange	Strong scent when bruised or crushed; may repel pests.
Lilac	Many varieties	Shrub	Spring	Lavender, pink, white	Very fragrant blooms in spring.