



Thyme In Our Garden Flutters By

How to Create a Butterfly Garden

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Enticing Butterflies to Your Garden

- What's more whimsical and carefree than a butterfly flitting about?
- Growing plants for nectar is only half the story.
- You'll need Host Plants for egg laying.
- Practice WILDSCAPING! This often means spending less time maintaining, leaving more time for enjoying your garden!
- Butterflies love chaos...loosen your collar and accept a bit of disarray, the results will be rewarding!
- Share nature with family, friends and neighbors; inspire your children or grandchildren!

Pick a Promising Site

- You'll need full sun, 6 or more hours a day, some filtered sun is o.k.
- For limited space, consider container gardening.
- Choose a location where you can view the garden from a window or sitting area.
- A site sheltered from heavy winds, protected by trees, shrubs or walls works best.
- Nearby trees also provide for roosting overnight.
- Stones set in sunny locations give butterflies spots to warm their bodies for flying.
- Male Butterflies need puddles or shallow water sources to obtain salt and amino acids necessary for mating.

Choose Butterfly Host Plants

- Butterfly caterpillars will only eat their specialized food or Host Plants.
- Choose Host Plants that fit your garden's structure and design.
- Your garden need not be large, but diversity is important.
- Tend your plants carefully; look out for caterpillars and Chrysalides.

Host Plants & Local Butterflies

Non-native Hosts:

- Parsley (family), Fennel, Dill and Rue, etc. - ANISE SWALLOWTAIL & GIANT SWALLOWTAIL (Rue)
- Toadflax (Linaria) and Snapdragon - COMMON BUCKEYE
- Nasturtium - CABBAGE WHITE
- Tree Mallow and Hollyhock - PAINTED LADY & WEST COAST LADY



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- Baby Tears (groundcover) in between the stones - RED ADMIRAL
- Citrus (lime, lemon, orange, etc.) - GIANT SWALLOWTAIL AND ANISE SWALLOWTAIL

Non-native Trees :

- Cassia (Senna) ornamental tree or shrubs, including Desert Cassia - CLOUDLESS SULPHUR
- Willows (Salix sp.); Elm; Birch, etc - MOURNING CLOAK
- Wild Cherry and Ash - WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL & PALE SWALLOWTAIL (Ash)

Non-native Vine :

- Passion Vine (Passiflora sp.) - GULF FRITILLARY

CA Native Hosts:

- Lupine - ORANGE SULPHUR
 - Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica) - PALE SWALLOWTAIL
 - Monkey Flower (Mimulus) - BUCKEYE & CHALCEDON CHECKERSPOT
 - Rock Cress (Arabis sp.) - SARA'S ORANGETIP
 - Milkweed (Asclepias curassavica or Mexican Milkweed; Asclepias verticillata), etc. - MONARCH & QUEEN
 - Black Sage (Salvia mellifera) - GRAY HAIRSTREAK
 - Indian Mallow (Abutilon palmeri) - PAINTED & WEST COAST LADY BUTTERFLIES
 - California Lilac (ceanothus sp.) - PALE SWALLOWTAIL
- ...and many more...

Butterfly Nectar Plants

Non-natives:

- Butterfly Bush (Buddleia); Pentas ; Aster; Pincushion Flower (Scabiosa); Lavender; Heliotrope (purple and white); Zinnia; Blanketflower (Gaillardia); Cupids Dart (Catanache caerulea); Coreopsis; Coneflower (Echinacea sp.); Lantana; Verbenas (especially, bonariensis); Jupiter's Beard (centranthus ruber); Salvias; Yarrow; Wallflower (Erysimum)

CA Natives:

- Lilac verbena (verbena lilacina); Cleveland Sage (salvia clevelandii); Black Sage (salvia mellifera); Salvia 'Aromas' Sage; Milkweed (asclepias curassavica - aka Mexican Milkweed); Indian Mallow (abutilon palmeri); California Lilac (ceanothus sp.); California Poppy; California Buckwheat (Eriogonum sp.); Yarrow (Achillea millefolium californica)

Practice Nature-Friendly Pest Control

- Butterflies & their larvae are insects, so insecticides, even those labeled organic, can harm them.
- Herbicides can also harm nectar and host plants...especially natives.
- Use mulch and pull weeds regularly.
- Well over 90% of insects cause no harm; many actually eat the insects that do.



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- Make your garden attractive to pest predators (ladybugs, lacewings, and especially birds)

Observe & Explore Butterfly Behavior

- Each butterfly has a distinctive flight pattern.
- Many butterflies and their caterpillars are toxic or have other protection against predators.
- One caterpillar looks like a bird dropping for camouflage.
- They detect their host plants through sensory organs on their feet and heads.
- The Mourning Cloak has been known to land on you if you're in its defined territory.
- Many are territorial among species. They also will chase birds!
- Male Monarchs will hang out in your garden waiting for females. They will also fly with the female to secure a safe location for the mating.
- SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST! -- Male Monarchs are aggressive with competing males and will attack smaller or weaker males.
- Gulf Fritillary butterflies will attack other species competing in their territory, even the larger Monarch.

Monarch Spotlight -Amazing Facts-

- Monarchs live 2 to 6 weeks, except the last generation of the year, which won't become sexually mature until spring the next year...these are the migrating generation of Monarchs.
- These late season butterflies will go into sexual diapause to conserve their energy for the winter. They can live much longer, up to 9 months!
- You can tell a male Monarch from a female by identifying two symmetrical dots or bumps (scent glands) in the lower wings of the male.

Habitat Restoration: One Garden at a Time

- As human habitats continue to expand, wildlife mating and feeding grounds are being fragmented and destroyed.
- Design your garden to provide for their habitat, YOU can truly make a difference.
- What can ONE homeowner do? Last year, we successfully raised and released 120 Monarchs and more than 40 of another other species! For more info, email: kethington@cox.net
- Register your garden as a Monarch Way Station to assist in the conservation of Monarchs in North America: <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>; The North American Butterfly Association also has a new butterfly garden certification program; you can check it out at: http://nababutterfly.com/certification_outdoor.pdf

Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you. ~ Nathaniel Hawthorne



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BUTTERFLIES & HOST PLANTS (detail)

| Butterfly | Host Plants | *CA native plant |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Anise Swallowtail | Apiaceae family including parsley, fennel and dill; and some in the Rutaceae family including citrus and Rue. | |
| Cabbage White | Many plants in the mustard (Brassicaceae) family and occasionally some in the caper family (Capparidaceae). Examples, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, mustard greens, radish; other - nasturtium. | |
| California Dogface | Usually false indigo (<i>Amorpha californica</i>)* in the pea family (Fabaceae). Primarily lay eggs in riparian areas, not gardens. | |
| Cloudless Sulphur | Cassia species in the pea family (Fabaceae); Ornamental Cassia species are utilized in coastal southern California. | |
| Common Buckeye | Antirrhinum family including snapdragon (<i>Antirrhinum</i>) and toadflax (<i>Linaria</i>); the plantain family including plantains (<i>Plantago</i>); and the acanthus family including ruellia (<i>Ruellia nodiflora</i>). | |
| Giant Swallowtail | Citrus (lime, lemon, orange, etc.) | |
| Gray Hairstreak | Flowers and fruits from an almost endless variety of plants; most often from pea (Fabaceae) and mallow (Malvaceae) families including beans (<i>Phaseolus</i>), clovers (<i>Trifolium</i>), cotton (<i>Gossypium</i>), and mallow (<i>Malva</i>). Also, false indigo*, black sage* | |
| Gulf Fritillary | Passion Vine (<i>Passiflora</i> sp.) - many varieties, great success with "Coral Sea" | |
| Marine Blue | Plumbago sp. (leadwort) | |
| Monarch | Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp) including Mexican butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>)* | |
| Mourning Cloak | Willows including black willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>), weeping willow (<i>S. babylonica</i>), and silky willow (<i>S. sericea</i>); also American elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>), cottonwood (<i>Populus deltoides</i>), aspen (<i>P. tremuloides</i>), paper birch (<i>Betula papyrifera</i>), and hackberry (<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>). | |
| Orange Sulphur | Plants in the pea family (Fabaceae) including alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i>), white clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), and white sweet clover (<i>Melilotus alba</i>). Also, Lupine*. | |
| Painted Lady | More than 100 host plants have been noted; favorites include thistles (Asteraceae), hollyhock and mallow (Malvaceae), and various legumes (Fabaceae). | |
| Pale Swallowtail | Trees and shrubs in the Rosaceae, Rhamnaceae and Betulaceae families including cherry (<i>Prunus emarginata</i>), coffeeberry (<i>Rhamnus californica</i>)*, California lilac (<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.) and ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> spp.). | |
| Queen | Milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp) including Mexican butterfly weed (<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>)* | |
| Red Admiral | Plants of the nettle family (Urticaceae) including stinging nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), tall wild nettle (<i>U. gracilis</i>), wood nettle (<i>Laportea canadensis</i>), false nettle (<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>), pellitory (<i>Parietaria pennsylvanica</i>), mamaki (<i>Pipturus albidus</i>), and possibly hops (<i>Humulus</i>). Also, Baby Tears (<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>) | |
| Pacific Orangetip (Sara's Orangetip) | Plants in the mustard (Brassicaceae) family especially rock cresses such as tower mustard. | |
| West Coast Lady | Many plants in the mallow family (Malvaceae) including tree mallow (<i>Lavatera</i>), globe mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea</i>), bush mallow (<i>Malvastrum</i>), mallow (<i>Malva</i>), alkali mallow (<i>Sida</i>), checkerbloom (<i>Sidalcea</i>), Indian Mallow* and hollyhock (<i>Althea</i>). | |
| Western Tiger Swallowtail | Leaves of cottonwood and aspen (<i>Populus</i>), willows (<i>Salix</i>), wild cherry (<i>Prunus</i>), and ash (<i>Fraxinus</i>). | |