

Information on Butterflies

Getting the Most Out of Your Butterfly Garden

Butterflies are cold-blooded animals becoming quite active at temperatures above 60 degrees Fahrenheit. During cool evenings and cloudy or rainy weather they roost on the underside of leaves, in woodpiles or other warm areas.

Their wings are large in proportion to body size so Butterflies are vulnerable to strong winds. For this reason they generally restrict themselves to sunny, quiet, sheltered areas. Shrub borders and climbing vines on structures make good windbreak habitats.

Butterflies frequent the edges of water puddles where concentrated sodium and minerals serve as nutritional liquid refreshment.

Butterflies are drawn to flowers possessing strong fragrance, tubular shape and bright colors. They extract nectar from these plants.

Shrubs that attract Butterflies:

Abelia, Althaea (Rose of Sharon), Azalea, Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Caryopteris (Blue Mist), Clethra (Summersweet), Ligustrum (Privet Hedge), Potentilla, Prunus (Cherry), Rhododendron, Salix (Willows), spirea, Syringa (Lilac), Viburnum, Weigela, and Yucca.

Perennials that attract Butterflies:

Achillea (Yarrow), Agastache, Alcea (Hollyhock), Allium (flowering Onion), Asclepias (Butterfly Weed), Aster, Astilbe, Boltonia, Campanula, Centranthus, Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Dianthus, Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), Echinacea (Coneflower), Eupatorium, Gaillardia (Blanket Flower), Gaura, Geranium, Hemerocallis (Daylily), Hibiscus, Kniphofia (Poker), Lavendula, Liatris (Blazing Star), Lilium (true Lilies), Lobelia, Monarda (Bee Balm), Nepeta (Catmint), Penstemon, Phlox, Rudbeckia, Salvia (Sage), Scabiosa (Pincushion), Sedum, Solidago (Golden Rod), Thymus (Thyme), Verbena, and Veronica.

Natural predators of Butterflies:

Birds, Spiders, Wasps, Mantids, and Flies.