



Ahh – To Grow A Garden – So Get Up and Get Growing –Taylorsville City - Tree Of The Month Article – August 2010 - Attracting Butterflies, To Your Garden - For reference Taylorsville City is USDA Hardiness zone 7A.

Brightly colored butterflies can be a welcome addition to your wildlife garden, not only because of their beauty, but also because of their usefulness in pollinating flowers. Planting a successful garden that promotes the entire life cycle of a butterfly requires two types of plants that serve the needs of all life stages of the butterfly. They first need plants that larva feed on. These are referred to as host plants such as Sweet Fennel. Adult butterflies lay eggs on the host plant, which will serve as a food source for the larva until it becomes a full sized caterpillar. The caterpillar will molt several times during this phase. At this point, the caterpillar's body begins to change. They will usually leave the host plant to find a more sheltered place to continue their metamorphosis. The caterpillar attaches itself to something sturdy such as a twig or branch. There, the body begins to liquefy and they enter into the chrysalis stage, or as many refer to it as a cocoon. Around two weeks later, it will emerge from the chrysalis as a beautiful butterfly! They hang, while flapping their wings, to pump body fluid into them. Then, the search for the second type of required plant begins.

The second type of plant required, is referred to as the nectar, or food plant. A nectar plant is the plant from which adult butterflies use their long tongues to feed on the nectar from flowers. There are an endless number of plants to choose from. The fun begins when you begin to decide the type of butterfly you want to attract and what types of plants will be needed for a particular species. There is a smaller chance of going wrong when choosing nectar plants. Although certain species are very particular in the type of food plant they choose, they are not as finicky in their adult stage. More than 700 species of butterflies are found in North America. Adult butterflies range in size from the half-inch pigmy blue found in southern California, to the giant female Queen Alexandra's Bird Wing of New Guinea that measures ten inches from wing tip to wing tip. An excellent site for creating your butterfly garden is: <http://www.thebutterflysite.com/gardening.shtml#creating-butterfly-garden>. **Butterfly feeders** also help to attract and keep butterflies in your garden, along with butterfly houses and niches provide resting places and "overnight" accommodation.

The best butterfly attracting plant is reported to be the Butterfly weed. This native perennial is hardy through United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) hardiness zones 3 to 10. The seeds are hard to sprout, so nursery-propagated plants are a better choice. Butterfly weed needs plenty of sun, blooms orange from midsummer onward, and seldom grows more than 1 to 2 feet tall. Once planted, it likes to stay put. **The second best butterfly attracting plant is reported to be the Butterfly bush.** This hardy shrub has become so popular that nursery-grown plants are easy to find. They are hardy in USDA zones 5 to 10 and come in many shades of purple, pink, and white; and, depending on the variety and conditions, can grow from 3 to 12 feet tall. **The third best butterfly attracting plant is reported to be the Lantana.** This tender perennial survives winter only in USDA zones 8 to 10; in other zones, you can buy bedding plants in the spring and grow them as summer annuals. Almost all butterflies like lantana.

More good plants to incorporate into your butterfly haven include any type of Verbena, Salvia, Cosmos, Phlox, Coneflower, and Rudbeckia. Butterflies prefer single flowers rather than the double-petal type because they allow them to get at the nectar hidden in the middle. Single flowers that are relatively flat give butterflies a solid place to land and easy access to nectar. Among easy annuals, Single cosmos, Marigolds, and Zinnias are of great interest to butterflies. Where you can use more height, try Mexican sunflower or Torch flower.

Always keep your eyes peeled for flowers that attract butterflies. Butterflies often show strong regional preferences for certain plants like: Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Bee Balm, Coneflower, Dogbane, Joe Pye Weed, Ironweed, Boneset, Liatris, Small Globe Thistle, Golden Rod, Heliotrope, Swampweed, Milkweed, Penta, Phlox, Pincushion Flower, Red Sage, Pineapple Sage, Sweet William, Coreopsis, Verbena, Fennel, Dill, Parsley, Blue Salvia, Abelia, Azalea, Buttonbush, Honeysuckle, Lilac, Spicebush, and Viburnum.





The plants listed below been ranked in order of the number of butterfly and moth species attracted to their nectar.

1. Butterfly Weed, a perennial native, that is very attractive to butterflies, height 2-3 feet, USDA zones 3-10.
2. Butterfly Bush, is a must for summer garden with wonderful scented flowers, USDA zones 5-10, and height 4-12 feet.
3. Lantana, is a tender perennial survives winter only in USDA zones 8-10;
4. Brazilian Verbena, perennial in USDA zones 7-10, and height 2-3 feet.
5. Globe Amaranth/Bachelor Button, perennial or biennial, height 2 feet
6. Marigolds, have showy bright yellow flowers, an annual, blooms from spring to fall, to 2-3 feet.
7. Oregano, a Mediterranean-type herbs, that needs only moderate water and full sun, USDA zones 5-10, 1-foot tall.
8. Zinnia, an annual in profusion of colors, multi-colors, and hues including white, yellow, orange, red, rose, and pink.
9. White Clover, can be grow in turf grass and be invasive, in agricultural crops, attracts large amounts of bees.
10. Heliotrope "Marine", purple flowers that smell of fresh vanilla, quick to bloom with habit, USDA zones 3-10, height 1 foot.
11. "Blue Bedder" and other Salvias are ornamental perennials, blooms from June to Oct., USDA zones 3-10, & height 2-3 feet.
12. Privet, a quick, dense, long-lasting hedge with white flowers late spring to early summer, USDA zones 3-8, height 12 feet.
13. Red Clover, used for grazing cattle and other animals. It has also been used medicinally to treat a number of conditions.
14. Garlic Chives (Chinese Chives), the leaves are garlic flavored, with fragrant with flowers, USDA zones 4-8, and 2-foot tall.
15. Blood Flower, Mexican Butterfly Weed, or Scarlet Milkweed of the milkweed family, USDA zones 8-10, and height 2 feet.
16. Mexican Sunflower, a tall, cheerful flower, this annual, offers a fun way to fill the back of a border add color to 6 feet.
17. Cosmos, native to Central America and Mexico, an annual to perennial with brightly colored flowers to 4 feet.
18. Dame's Rocket, is a showy, short-lived perennial from May to August can be invasive, USDA zones 4-9, and height 3-5 feet.
19. Sedum, blooms from August to November a very dependable bloomer with pink flowers USDA zones 3-11, & height 2 feet.
20. Ground Ivy, emits a distinctive odor when damaged, a member of the mint family, has lavender flowers can be invasive.
21. Common Sage, is a small shrub, with woody stems, grayish leaves, and purplish flowers, USDA zones 4-11, & height 3 feet.
22. Glossy Abelia, shrub, with small, white, fragrant flowers from spring through the fall, USDA zones 7-10, & height 3-6 feet.
23. Oriental Lily, bloom from May to September with a mix of both Asiatic and Oriental cultivars USDA zones 4-9.
24. Verbena, booms in summer on slender stocks of red, rose, peach, pink, purple, lavender, USDA zones 5-10, height to 4 feet.
25. Catnip, have small, white or lilac flowers, a fragrant plant, in the mint family, a herb, USDA zones 3-9, to 3 feet.
26. Mint, a fragrant plant, a hardy perennial and herb with many medicinal uses, USDA zones 3-11, and height to 2 feet.
27. Common Dandelion, is a perennial, herbaceous plant with long, lance-shaped leaves, but very invasive.
28. Lavender, is a member of the mint family, and is native to the Mediterranean region, USDA zones 5-10, and height to 3 feet.
29. Creeping Wood Sorrel, considered a weed since it is so invasive but has pretty yellow flowers, USDA zones 3-10.
30. Common Tansy, aromatic perennial yellow "button" flowers July to October considered invasive USDA zones 3-10.
31. Daylily, flowers of these plants are highly diverse in color and form, and height USDA zones 1-10, and height 1-12 feet.
32. Mistflower, a perennial in the composite family with Joe-Ply weed & Boneset small purple flowers July to September.
33. Late-flowering Boneset, a herb/perennial used to treat fevers in Aster family, USDA zones 5-10, and height 1-6 feet.
34. Indian Hemp/Dogbane is a perennial herbaceous plant that grows throughout much of North America USDA zone 3-10.
35. Echinacea a genus of nine species of herbaceous plants in the Aster family commonly called Coneflowers USDA zones 4-9.
36. New England Aster and Heath Aster, Small White Aster, Smooth Aster,
37. Common Milkweed, the beautiful monarch butterfly lives it's entire life on the common milkweed plant.
38. Black-eyed Susan, a perennial native to the eastern US, is a member of the sunflower family, and a very popular wildflower.
39. Great Blue Lobelia, a perennial native, member of the Bellflower family, with deep blue flowers, USDA zones 2-9, 2-3 feet,
40. Joe-Pye Weed, is also a great host plant for butterflies and caterpillars and is a must have in any butterfly garden.
41. Daisy Fleabane, is a plant in the Daisy family, it is a perennial native to the most of the US, USDA zones 2-9., & 1-3 feet
42. Blazing Star, a perennial native of most the US, attracts hummingbirds and butterflies, USDA zones 3-9, and 2-5 feet.
43. Sweet Pepperbush/Summer Sweet, a small bush, pink fragrant flowers, native to eastern US, UDSA zones 4-9, and 3-5 feet.
44. New York Ironweed, a perennial native, in the Aster family, blooms August to Oct., 3-7 feet, USDA zones 3-10.
45. Swamp Milkweed/White Indian Hemp, a perennial with small cluster of pink or white flowers, 2-3 feet, loved by Monarchs.
46. Wild Blue Phlox, spring flowers are pale blue-purple to red-purple or white, a perennial herb growing to 6 to 20 inches tall.
47. Tickseed Sunflower, in the Aster family, a native annual or biennial plant is 1-4' tall.





Host plants for butterfly larvae plants are as follows:

1. Pipe Vine, Dutchman's, is pipe a handsome deciduous vine native to the mountains for swallowtails.
2. Bamboo/Cane, if you have a moist area and space to let it roam, cane is the host for many unusual and desired butterflies.
3. Common Milkweed, the caterpillar host plant for Monarch is also a great nectar source.
4. Pawpaw or Dwarf Pawpaw, is a small, suckering bottomland tree for Zebra Swallowtails and tasty fruits likes drier spots.
5. Wild Indigo, for Wild Indigo Duskywings and other closely related genera such as *Thermopsis* work as well.
6. Collard greens, creasy greens, and other cabbage family members are not only tasty and nutritious they're enjoyed by Cabbage Whites, Checkered Whites, and Falcate Orange-Tips butterflies.
7. Partridge Pea, brightens up dry open woods, and is host for Cloudless Sulphur, Little Yellow, and Sleepy Orange butterflies.
8. Several varieties of Hackberries such as Sugarberry a large tree (does best in moist areas), Common Hackberry, Georgia Hackberry (does well in drier areas) are host for American Snout, Hackberry Emperor, and Tawny Emperor butterflies.
9. Atlantic White-Cedar, native to the Southeast US is the sole host plant for the rare, Hessel's Hairstreak. Even without Hessel's, the tree is a fine ornamental that provides cover for other species of butterflies and birds. Best in moist spots.
10. Flowering Dogwood, is host for Spring Azure butterfly.
11. Bronze Fennel and Non-Bronze Fennel, a perennial herb, works just as well, but isn't as attractive as the Bronze Fennel as the host plant for Black Swallowtails. They are also good as a nectar plant for hairstreaks.
12. American Holly, is host for Henry's Elfin butterfly.
13. Eastern Red Cedar, an evergreen used for screening, is also host plant for the Juniper Hairstreak, a pretty little mint-green butterfly.
14. Spicebush, is host for Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly, it needs a moist spot.
15. Passion Flower, might help lure Gulf Fritillary or Zebra butterflies.
16. Parsley, is host for "parsley-worms" (Black Swallowtail) larvae.
17. Many native grasses species and some of the most commonly used ornament grasses: Broomsedge, Bluestem, River Oats, Love Grass, Munchy, Pampas Grass and Maiden Grass, Chinese Silver Grass, and Switch Grass are all host plants. Some exotic grasses such as Bermuda Grass, Crab Grass, Tall Fescue, Japanese Stilt Grass, Nepalese Brown-Top, Dallis Grass, Golden Crown Grass, and Johnson Grass are some of our worst weed problems but are still host plants to some species.
18. Black Cherry, this small tree is the host plant for E. Tiger Swallowtail, Coral Hairstreak, Red-spotted, and Purple-spotted butterflies. They are also great for birds, as you can tell by all the seedlings that sprout in your yard.
19. Oak, every yard needs an oak tree with many species, from the slow-growing White Oak, to the fast-growing Willow Oak, to exotic Sawtooth, are host for White M Hairstreak, Juvenal's Duskywing, and Horace's Duskywing butterflies.
20. Willow, Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) and other native willows are good for a wet spot and host for Viceroy butterflies.
21. Weeds, many species of butterfly feed on various grasses, clover, Lamb's-Quarters, plantain, violets and others. A "chem. lawn" monoculture is not good if you want more butterflies.