

## Butterfly Tips



### Home Sweet Home

Just like you, butterflies want to hang out where they feel welcome, have plenty to eat, and a comfortable place to rest. You can create a cozy habitat for butterflies in your yard, or on your porch or balcony. Use these suggestions to get started:

- Plant colorful flowers. Red, orange, pink, purple and yellow are butterfly favorites. Flowers shaped like small tubes (or bells) or those that have a flat-top or grow in a cluster of small blossoms attract butterflies too.
- You have flowers that are native to your area and these are great choices because these plants and butterflies have adapted to help each other over the years. You can find out which plants are native to your area at any nursery or visit one of these websites: <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder> or <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>.
- Planting a variety of flowers will support butterflies at different stages of life. Remember, a butterfly is first a caterpillar that needs plant leaves for nutrition. Also, it is great to have plants that bloom at different times so there is always nectar for the adult butterfly.

### Fun in the Sun

- Butterflies like to feed in the sun, so your butterfly plants should be placed in a spot that gets sun most of the day.
- Sunny spots are also ideal for butterflies to stretch their wings and take a break in between flowers. Placing small stones or pieces of wood in your butterfly area, offers them place to perch.

## Made in the Shade

- Although they are primarily sun-lovers. Butterflies need a place to cool off too. Your butterfly feeder is a perfect place for butterflies to drink and relax. Butterflies like puddles and your feeder includes a contained puddle with a treat.
- Butterfly houses are sold in hardware stores and nurseries. If you decide to buy one (or better yet, build one yourself) place it in a location with some shade. Direct, hot sun can damage the caterpillar forming in the chrysalis.

## No Spray Zone

- Butterflies are sensitive to chemicals. Herbicides, pesticides and insecticides are harmful to butterflies.

## A Butterfly's BFF

The following is *The National Wildlife Federation's* list of plants that will make your butterflies happy. They attract butterflies and provide food for their caterpillars:

- **Acmon Blue** - buckwheat, lupines, milkvetch
- **American Painted Lady** - cudweed, everlast
- **Baird's Swallowtail** - dragon sagebrush
- **Black Swallowtail** - parsley, dill, fennel, common rue
- **Coral Hairstreak** - wild black cherry, American and chickasaw plum, black chokeberry
- **Dun Skipper** - sedges, grasses including purpletop
- **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail** - wild black cherry, ash, tulip tree, willow, sweetbay, basswood
- **Giant Swallowtail** - prickly ash, citrus, common rue, hoptree, gas plant, torchwood
- **Gray Comma** - gooseberry, azalea, elm
- **Great Purple Hairstreak** - mistletoe
- **Gulf Fritillary** - maypops, other passion vines
- **Henry's Elfin** - redbud, dahoon and yaupon hollies, maple-leaved viburnum, blueberries
- **Monarch** - milkweeds
- **Painted Lady** (Cosmopolite) - thistles, mallows, nievitas, yellow fiddleneck
- **Pygmy Blue** - saltbush, lamb's quarters, pigweed
- **Red Admiral/White Admiral** - wild cherries, black oaks, aspens, yellow and black birch
- **Silver-Spotted Skipper** - locusts, wisteria, other legumes
- **Spicebush Swallowtail** - sassafras, spicebush
- **Sulphurs** - clover, peas, vetch, alfalfa, asters
- **Variagated Fritillary** - passion flower, maypop, violets, stonecrop, purslane
- **Viceroy** - willows, cottonwood, aspen
- **Western Tailed Blue** - vetches, milkvetches