

Butterfly Gardens

The most important consideration in laying out a butterfly garden is the knowledge that butterflies will only visit flowers that grow in full sun. Choose a site that is sunny most of the day and is sheltered from the wind. Place a few rocks in the garden in the path of morning sun, and you will be rewarded on cool days by butterflies basking there to warm up.

Second, choose a mix of flowering plants that are good sources of nectar for hungry butterflies. Butterflies prefer flower that point upward - they shy away from sideways or downward pointing flowers. They prefer flowers with heads of small clumped flowers or flowers with broad petals on which they can land to rest.

Many of our native butterflies prefer plants that have pink, red, purple, yellow, or orange flowers. They appear to be attracted to areas with large masses of a single color, or closely related colors, rather than gardens with many colors mixed together. Besides looking for nectar, the female is also looking for a site to lay her eggs.

Finally, do not use pesticide dust or sprays in your garden. Butterflies are extremely sensitive to insecticides. Yard fogging and mosquito spraying programs take a terrible toll on butterflies.

Johnson's carries many plants that are appropriate for a butterfly garden. A few are:

Shrubs & Trees

Abelia, *Abelia x grandiflora*
Blueberry, *Vaccinium species*
Butterfly Bush, *Buddleia davidii*
Hawthorn, *Crataegus species*
Mock Orange, *Philadelphus species*
Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*
Rose of Sharon, *Hibiscus syriacus*
Spirea, *Spiraea species*
Summersweet, *Clethra alnifolia*
Viburnum, *Viburnum species*

Perennials

Aster, *Aster species*
Bee Balm, *Monarda didyma*
Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia species*
Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia species*
Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*
Coreopsis, *Coreopsis species*
Gayfeather, *Liatris species*
Hollyhock, *Althaea rosea*
Joe Pye Weed, *Eupatorium fistulosum*

Lobelia, *lobelia cardinalis*
Phlox, *Phlox paniculata*
Sage, *Salvia leucanthe*
Sedum, *Sedum species*
Veronica, *Veronica species*

Annuals

Ageratum, *Ageratum*
Cosmos, *Cosmos sulphureus*
Globe Amaranth, *Gomphrena globosa*
Lantana, *Lantana camera*
Marigold, *Tagetes patula*
Sunflower, *Helianthus species*
Verbena, *Verbena species*
Zinnia, *Zinnia elegans*

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