



## Create A Butterfly Garden

A butterfly garden is a wonderful way to watch butterflies. You can attract butterflies to your house by planting a few of the right flowers in a flower bed, window box, or corner of a vegetable garden.

You will need the following materials:

1. Empty milk jug, rinsed and dried
2. Flowers from a nursery
3. Scissors
4. A trowel (or small shovel)
5. A planter or a sunny plot of ground that is protected from the wind and has dark, moist soil

Good Butterfly Plants:

- |               |               |                 |              |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| * Ageratum    | * Beebalm     | * Bougainvillea | * Calendula  |
| * Coneflower  | * Dahlia      | * Day lily      | * Geranium   |
| * Hibiscus    | * Impatiens   | * Marigold      | * Milkweed   |
| * Mint family | * Phlox       | * Salvia        | * Snapdragon |
| * Yarrow      | * Yellow sage | * Zinnia        |              |

The first thing you'll need for your butterfly garden is flowers. The best plants for a butterfly garden are those that flower for a long period of time, are fragrant, grow in colorful clumps, and have large petals or blossoms that provide easy access to the nectar butterflies eat.

**Step 1:** Go to your local nursery and ask for one or two plants from the list to the left. If you are unfamiliar with flowers, also ask how to plant them. A less expensive method is buying seeds and growing the flowers yourself, but this also requires more work.

**Step 2:** Find a good spot for your garden. The best spot is a sunny one with protection from the wind-against a wall or stand of bushes.

Sunlight is a very important ingredient for your butterfly garden. Butterflies are cold-blooded, so the sun helps them stay warm. Check your yard at hourly intervals on a sunny day to see which area of the yard receives the most sun.

**Step 3:** Plant your flowers. Do not use any pesticides around these plants. The poison that kills insect pests will also kill butterflies.

**Step 4:** Using the scissors, carefully cut off the bottom of your milk jug, leaving the sides about 1-1/2 inch high. Fill the jug with water for your butterflies, and remember to change it often to keep it clean and fresh.





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Butterflies are sociable insects, and just like you, they get thirsty. You can attract them into your garden by providing them with shallow water to sit in and sip up.

Later, when butterflies begin visiting your garden, sit and watch them. See if you can answer the following questions:

- \* Which species of flowers seem to attract the most butterflies?
- \* Do the butterflies seem to prefer one color over another?
- \* What time of day did you see the most butterflies?
- \* Does the butterfly flap its wings while it's feeding?
- \* How many other insects did you observe enjoying the garden picnic?

