

Components of a Butterfly Garden

Water

Butterflies feed at puddles or low spots that stay moist such as the edge of a pond fountain. You can place a shallow dish filled with sand and pebbles and water in your garden if you do not have a natural puddling area. This is especially attractive to male butterflies as they receive salts and amino acids to help mating.

Do not water your butterfly nectar plants from overhead. Water dilutes the nectar available from the plants.

Shelter

Some butterflies over winter as adults. To provide shelter for them during the winter months and also during bad weather the butterflies will use cracks in logs, tree bark, fence posts or brush piles. (Note: Butterfly houses do not work)

Basking

Butterflies spend a lot of time soaking up the warmth from the sun. Provide decorative rocks or logs in your flowerbeds for them to sit and spread their wings on.

Life Cycle

The butterfly has 4 life stages: egg, caterpillar, pupa and adult. Do not use pesticides in your garden or this will destroy any of these stages.

Food

Plan your garden to have blooms through out the season. Plant some colors together in large groups. Provide rotting fruit on an old log or stump for sap feeding butterflies.

