ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR YARD

Attracting butterflies to your yard can be so rewarding! To attract butterflies to your yard you must provide flowers that have nectar and host plants for them to lay their eggs upon. Although there are many plants that have nectar, butterflies are rather specific about the plants they lay their eggs on. Butterflies lay eggs on plants that the hatched caterpillars will eat as they grow in their life cycle. It is easy to add the nectar plants but adding those host plants will give the butterflies a place to complete their life cycle and you will have butterflies in all stages. Here are some ideas for plants to put in your yard:

**For nectar:**

**Native plants:** Phlox, azaleas, thistles, fruit trees, zinnas, ironweed, goldenrod, coneflower, buttonbush, asters, blazing star, red clover, monarda, jewelweed

**Buy these at the nursery:** petunias, verbena, lilac, phlox, cosmos, lantana, butterfly bush (buddlea), morning glories, gaillardia

**These are host plants that butterflies will look for to lay eggs upon:**

**Native plants:** butterfly weed (Asclepias), Pipevine, Queen Anne's lace (naturalized), chickory (naturalized), nettles, white clover, red clover, violets, sassafras, spicebush, tulip poplar, ash, wild cherry, elm, hackberry, coreopsis, plantain, ruellia, some grasses (uncut grass with their seeds)

**Buy these at the nursery:** dill, fennel, parsley, alfalfa

Shallow bird bath for rotting fruit or shallow puddles of water.

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