

How to make your garden butterfly friendly

It is very important that we look after our pollinators. Here are some tips for attracting butterflies to your garden

- Butterfly gardens don't have to be big. You can grow plants in containers on a patio or even in hanging pots and window boxes. Choose a sunny spot.
- Don't use insecticides – these can be harmful to butterflies and caterpillars
- Feed the caterpillars - All butterflies start out as caterpillars that need plants on which to feed. Some good choices include clovers, milkweeds, and violets and many wild flowers.
- Provide a puddle - After rain, you may see butterflies congregating around a puddle or damp area in the garden to drink and extract minerals from the soil. Keep an area where a puddle can form.
- Provide a resting place – Butterflies need sun to warm their wings for flight. Place flat stones in a sunny spot in your garden.
- Provide flowering plants that give a source of nectar - Butterflies feed on nectar and are particularly attracted to red, pink and purple flowers. They also prefer to feed on open, tube-shape flowers.

Butterfly bush, *Buddleja davidii*; this plant produces cone-shaped clusters of tiny flowers in either purple, white, pink, or red.



Lavender, *Lavandula*; a garden favourite, producing white, pink, blue or purple aromatic flowers during the summer months



Small scabious, *Scabiosa* 'Butterfly Blue'; a long-flowering plant that produces lavender-blue flowers from late spring well into autumn.



Aubretia, *Aubrieta* 'Doctor Mules'; a carpet-forming plant that produces rich violet or blue flowers in May and June.



Plants that attract Butterflies

Butterfly Bush (Buddleia)

Primrose

Statice

Lilac

Aster

Phlox

Chives

Red Clover

Lavender

Wisteria

Marigold

Globe Thistle

Yarrow

Thyme

Calendula

Scabious

Aubretia

