

Resident Reporter



Western
Manufactured Housing Communities
Association

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How to create a Butterfly Garden

■ First, find out which species thrive in your area and the plants they are drawn to and which ones they lay their eggs on.

Choosing the Right Spot

Butterflies like the sun and large, open areas, so choose a spot that they will thrive in. To provide shelter from the wind, select plants like Buddleia, Honeysuckle, Spice Bush and Hawthorne. A small fence, shrubs, trees or even a large rock provide shelter from the wind.

Since butterflies cannot drink from open water, create little puddles using mud. Then, place rocks and sticks in the puddle so butterflies can perch while drinking.

Raised-bed Butterfly Garden

A raised-bed garden is very simple, created with a small area of soil bordered by boards, stones, rocks or bricks. You'll find it uses less space and less fertilizer and water.

Your garden can be any size and it's fun planning the design and materials you want to use.

- ◆ Start by using a shovel to cut through the grass around the perimeter of the bed. Then remove all grass and weeds in the center.
- ◆ Add some potting soil, compost or shredded leaves into the loose ground.

To create the boarder, select materials you find the most appealing.

- ◆ Wood: Cedar or redwood lumber (rot-resistant), treated landscape timber, or 2" x 10" or 2" x 12" boards (cut to desired length).
 - ◆ Rocks, stones, bricks, concrete blocks, or decorative concrete stones. You can find rocks in your yard, the park, beach or woods (but, don't scavenge your neighbor's yard!).
- When the border is finished and soil mixed, the fun of planting begins!



Get your garden tools ready!

First, plan the placement of your chosen plants. Plants that are taller belong in the back, medium height in the middle and short plants in the front. This keeps the butterflies happy (don't forget to place your puddle "watering holes" throughout the bed.

Butterflies are very picky when it comes to the kind of plants they like. If your local nursery doesn't carry some of the plants, ask them if they can be ordered or try an online retailer. Select a variety of plants to attract many different species.

Practical Information
for Residents of Manufactured
Home Communities

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Some tips:

- ◆ Stagger wild and cultivated plants.
- ◆ Select plants that bloom in different times of the year.
- ◆ Plant in groups, which will be more desirable to the butterflies.

The chart below offers a variety of plants for butterflies to feed (nectar plants)



and to lay their eggs on (larval plants). Have fun planting your garden and enjoy the beautiful butterflies it attracts!

Resources

My Great Home® -The online resource for manufactured and modular home owners. http://www.mygreathome.com/outdoors/garden_butterfly.htm. Copyright 2005 Foremost Insurance Company.

Butterfly Nectar Plants	
<p>Shrubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azalea Buddleia Lilac Privets Sumac Vaccinium Spp. Viburnums <p>Cultivated Perennial Flowers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee Balm Butterfly Weed Daisy Catmint (Catnip) Phlox Primrose Rock Cress Sedum 	<p>Cultivated Annual Flowers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alyssum Candytuft Cosmos Gaillardia Impatiens Marigold Mignonette Scabiosa Verbena Zinnias <p>Native Wildflowers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boneset Black-eyed Susan Blazing Star Dandelion Dogbane Goldenrod Joe-Pye-Weed Milkweeds New England Aster Purple Coneflower Thistle Wild Bergamot Yarrow



Butterfly Larval Plants	
Plant	Larva Species
Clover Family	Blues, Sulphurs
Dock	Coppers
Elm	Mourning Clock, Question Mark
Grasses	Fiery Skipper, Grass Nymphs, Satyrs
Hackberry	Hackberry, Tawny, Emperor, Snout
Mallow Family (Cheeseweed)	West Coast Lady, Common Hairstreak, Checkered Skipper
Milkweed	Monarch
Mustard Family	Whites
Nettle	Tortoise Shell, Painted Lady, Question Mark, Red Admiral, Hop Merchant
Parsley Family	Black Swallowtail, Anise Swallowtail
Plantain	Buckeye
Poplar	Mourning Cloak, White Admiral, Viceroy, Banded & Red Spotted, Purple, Western Tiger Swallowtail
Sorrel	American Copper
Spicebrush	Spicebrush Swallowtail
Thistle	Painted Lady
Turtlehead	Baltimore
Violet	Fritillary
Wild Cherry	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Coral Hairstreak, Red Spotted Purple
Willow	Comma, Tortoise Shell, Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple, White Admiral, Sylvan Hair-streak

