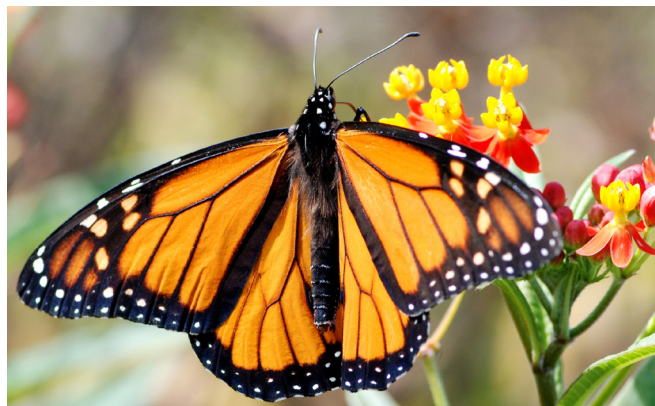


What is butterfly gardening? If you have ever seen a nice, lush garden that's humming with colorful butterflies flitting from flower to flower, that's your answer! The main goal for this type of garden is to create the best conditions to attract butterflies, choosing the right plants in the right conditions. This way, butterflies appear in the spring and summer, and your garden supports the entire butterfly life cycle.

The Basics You'll Need for a Vibrant Butterfly Garden

Sunshine and Protection: Your garden must be in a sunny location with protection from wind. Butterflies are most active on sunny, calm days with temperatures ranging from 65 to 95 degrees. Consider planting a tree or shrub nearby to provide protection from wind while butterflies are feeding. Butterflies also need to warm their bodies to fly, so place some rocks around the garden in spots that receive plenty of sun.

Moisture: Butterflies not only feed on nectar, but also on water from streams or morning dew. Creating depressions in your garden where water can pool adds a water supply for butterflies between irrigation cycles.



Flowers: In your butterfly garden, plant both sources for nectar and food for butterfly larvae. Refer to the Plant Recommendations below for ideas, although this is not an exhaustive list. Aim for a mix of nectar and larval plants to support butterfly larvae (caterpillars) and adult butterflies.

Plant Recommendations:

Nectar Plants

Red Bird of Paradise	SH
Desert Willow	TR
Desert Orchid	WF
Evening Primrose	GC
Ruellia	SH
Butterfly Bush	SH

Larval Plants

Sage Varieties	SH
Penstemon	GC
Arizona Sycamore	TR

Nectar and Larval Plants

Desert Milkweed	SH
Baja Fairy Duster	SH
Trailing Lantana	GC
Texas Honey Mesquite	TR

Index: **GC** - Ground Cover **SH** - Shrub
 WF - Wildflower **TR** - Tree

