

## Let us help you build your own butterfly garden

Native plants must be present to attract native butterflies. A diverse population of visiting butterflies helps ensure the health and success of your native plant garden.

To create a successful butterfly garden, like the Arlene and Arthur S. Holden Jr. Butterfly Garden, in your home or community landscape, we recommend these basic steps:

- 1** Determine which native butterflies you'd like to see in your garden and the host plants to grow.
- 2** Select your garden's location, learn about the plants you want to grow, and incorporate vital butterfly habitat features.
- 3** Plan out your seasonal garden care.

Explore the Butterfly Garden, then use this brochure as a checklist to track your very own butterfly garden project!



## Learn more from Holden Forests & Gardens

Learn from our experts to help your neighborhood bloom with beauty. Classes at Holden Forests & Gardens spread a love of plants to people of all skill levels, or engage them with other growth opportunities.

Visit [holdenfg.org](http://holdenfg.org) for current class offerings.

## Become a member

Become a member of Holden Forests & Gardens and enjoy all that the Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Botanical Garden have to offer. Enjoy free, year-round admission to both of our campuses including admission to the Kalberer Family Tower and Murch CanopyWalk at the Arboretum and seasonal shows such as Glow and our annual orchid show at the Botanical Garden. Membership also includes off-hours daylight access to the Arboretum, discounts on classes and store purchases, and free admission to over 300 participating gardens, arboreta and conservatories through the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admission Program.

Visit [holdenfg.org](http://holdenfg.org) for more information.



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ARLENE & ARTHUR S. HOLDEN JR.  
BUTTERFLY GARDEN

BUTTERFLY GARDEN  
PLANTING GUIDE



# Follow these steps to attract butterflies to your garden:

## 1 Plant Selection

The plants in your garden inform which butterfly species make your garden their home. Use the Host Plant List Brochure to determine the host plant(s) for each butterfly type.



I have selected the butterfly species I wish to visit my garden and discovered their host plants.

List your desired host plants here:



A host plant is a plant that butterflies lay their eggs on and provide food for hatched caterpillars and nectar-drinking adults. Plants in the milkweed family are host plants for monarch butterflies and their caterpillars.

## 2 Grow Plants and Knowledge

Providing healthy native habitats is essential to butterfly survival. Start by identifying the location of your garden and its conditions.

How much sun does it get throughout the day? (circle one)



Full sun



Partial sun



Shade

It is wet or dry? (circle one)



Wet



Dry

How much space is available?

What type of soil does it have?



I have identified my garden location and conditions.

## Butterflies and native plants have a tight knit relationship.

They depend on each other to complete their life cycles. Butterflies need native plants for food and shelter. Plants need butterflies to assist with pollination.

Pollination happens when butterflies, or other agents of pollen dispersal (i.e. wind, water, other animals), transfer pollen from the male part of the plant to the female, seed-producing part of the plant. This allows fertilization and ultimately, reproduction, to take place. Butterflies gather pollen indirectly when harvesting nectar from a flower.



Next, do a little research on the plants you have chosen. Determine which plants will grow best in your garden and purchase them from your local nursery.

Select plants that don't have double flower heads and are neonicotinoid-free. Double flowers crowd and cover the pollen and nectar-producing plant parts, and are of no benefit to pollinators. Neonicotinoids are insecticides absorbed by plants, making them toxic to pollinators.



I have purchased and planted my plants using the recommended guidance provided by my nursery.

## 3 Garden Elements and Care

Just like humans, pollinators need food, shelter and water.



I have incorporated food, shelter and water elements into my garden.

Here are some tips HF&G recommends to create premium butterfly habitat:

- Plant large blocks of plants that continually bloom throughout the growing season. This ensures that there is nectar available all season long.
- Include trees, shrubs, and grasses in your garden to offer shelter from harsh weather, predators, and seasonal changes.
- Install a small pond or birdbath to provide a constant source of drinking water.



Butterflies spending time in your garden is indicative of a healthy and thriving native plant community. Year-round care for your garden will lead to flourishing plants and lots of butterfly visitors, as seen here in the Butterfly Garden.



I have planned my garden care by season.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date to start fall preparation tasks

\_\_\_\_\_ Date to start winter preparation tasks

\_\_\_\_\_ Date to start spring preparation tasks

## We recommend the following seasonal care techniques:



### Spring

Plant! When planting a new garden, water regularly for the first year of growth. After, the plants should establish and do fine with natural watering. Mulch around new plants to keep weeds at bay and hold moisture.



### Summer

Enjoy your garden. There may be some weeding and watering to do, but overall, this is a great time to observe what butterflies and other pollinators you have attracted.



### Fall

Leave plant debris in the garden and resist pruning dead flower stalks or grasses over the winter. Butterflies and other pollinators use the debris to overwinter and protect themselves from predators and winter weather. This is also a good time to sow seeds in the garden. Seeds will naturally receive the cold temps and moisture they need to germinate.



### Winter

Prune your plants. With cold temperatures, there is less chance to spread disease. This is also a good time to plan for new garden ideas.

Good luck with your butterfly garden project! Come back and visit the Arlene and Arthur S. Holden Jr. Butterfly Garden often to further inspire your progress.

