

Attracting Butterflies

Adult butterflies primarily feed on flower nectar. Some varieties, such as Mourning Cloaks, Eastern Commas and Question Marks, feed on tree sap and rotting fruit.

You can try attracting butterflies by placing overripe bananas, oranges, and other fruit in a shallow dish and hanging it from a tree, or placing it on a platform for easy viewing. Don't forget to provide a water source — a shallow dish or "mud puddle" will work great.

NATIVE BUTTERFLY PLANTS

TREES

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)
Pawpaw (*Asimina*)
Birch (*Betula*)
Hackberry (*Celtis*)
Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*)
Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
Tuliptree (*Liriodendron*)

SHRUBS

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus*)
Spicebush (*Lindera*)
Wax Myrtle (*Myrica*)
Wild Plum (*Prunus*)

PERENNIALS

Pipevines (*Aristolochia*)
Goat's Beard (*Aranthus*)
Milkweed (*Asclepias*)
Asters (*Aster*)
Wild Indigo (*Baptista*)
Sedges (*Carex* spp.)

Cottonwood (*Populus*)
Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
Oaks (*Quercus*)
Willows (*Salix*)
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
Elms (*Ulmus*)

Sweetleaf (*Symplocos*)
Blueberry (*Vaccinium*)
Wisteria (*Wisteria*)

Turtlehead (*Chelone*)
Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga*)
Crown Vetch (*Coronilla*)
Legumes (many species)
Passionvine (*Passiflora*)
Violets (*Viola*)



BUTTERFLY GARDENING



A guide to creating a butterfly garden at home

MUSEUM  of LIFE + SCIENCE

For more information, visit www.lifeandscience.org/learn-about/butterflies.

Getting Started

A butterfly garden can be rewarding for the gardener as well as for nature. Choose a sunny location and avoid the use of pesticides. Try mixing native butterfly plants with existing plantings.

A well-planned garden can increase the butterfly population in your area; it can also help supply fruit, nuts, and shelter for birds and other wildlife. You can create an attractive and safe place for butterflies and support other pollinators and beneficial insects, too.

Butterflies go through metamorphosis, so it's important to provide a mixture of plants that support all of the different life stages. Grow host plants for egg-laying and food for caterpillars, as well as flowering plants that provide nectar for adult butterflies. Also, be sure to include a variety of plants that will bloom throughout the season because different butterfly species fly from early spring to late fall.

COMMON BUTTERFLIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Black Swallowtail (<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>)	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (<i>Papilio glaucus</i>)	Red-spotted Purple (<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>)
Cabbage White (<i>Pieris rapae</i>)	Gray Hairstreak (<i>Strymon melinus</i>)	Silver-spotted Skipper (<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>)
Checkered White (<i>Pontia protodice</i>)	Monarch (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>)	Spring Azure (<i>Celastrina ladon</i>)
Clouded Sulphur (<i>Colias philodice</i>)	Mourning Cloak (<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>)	Variiegated Fritillary (<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>)
Cloudless Sulphur (<i>Phoebis sennae</i>)	Orange Sulphur (<i>Colias eurytheme</i>)	Viceroy (<i>Limenitis archippus</i>)
Common Buckeye (<i>Junonia coenia</i>)	Pearl Crescent (<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>)	Zebra Swallowtail (<i>Eurytides marcellus</i>)
Eastern Comma (<i>Polygonia comma</i>)	Question Mark (<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>)	
Eastern Tailed-Blue (<i>Everes comyntas</i>)	Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	

Feeding Caterpillars

Caterpillars are finicky eaters. Some species will only eat one type of plant. Butterfly gardeners need to provide specific plants for certain types of caterpillars.

Be sure to plant multiples of food plants because caterpillars need to eat a lot. A typical caterpillar can increase in mass 2,000 times. If you have a lot of caterpillars, you will need lots of food plants!

FOOD PLANTS AND THEIR HOST CATERPILLARS

Dill (<i>Anethum</i>)	Black Swallowtail
Pussytoes (<i>Antennaria</i>)	American Lady
Snapdragon (<i>Antirrhinum</i>)	Common Buckeye
Cole Crops (<i>Brassica</i>)	Cabbage White
Toothworts (<i>Cardamine</i>)	Falcate Orangetip
Senna (<i>Cassia</i>)	Cloudless Sulphur
Fennel (<i>Foeniculum</i>)	Black Swallowtail
Hops (<i>Humulus</i>)	Question Mark
Mallow (<i>Malva</i>)	Painted Lady
Alfalfa (<i>Medicago</i>)	Clouded Sulphur
Parsley (<i>Petroselinium</i>)	Black Swallowtail
Loblolly Pine (<i>Pinus</i>)	Eastern Pine Elfin
Kentucky Bluegrass (<i>Poa</i>)	Swarthy Skipper
Clover (<i>Trifolium</i>)	Clouded Sulphur
Nettle (<i>Urtica</i>)	Red Admiral and Question Mark

