

## Top Host Plants for Caterpillars:

Milkweeds      Carrot Family  
 Alfalfa        Cabbage Family  
 Legumes        Grasses

## Top Nectar Flowers for Butterflies:

Milkweeds        Liatris  
 Purple Coneflower      New England Aster  
 Joe-Pye Weed        Hyssop

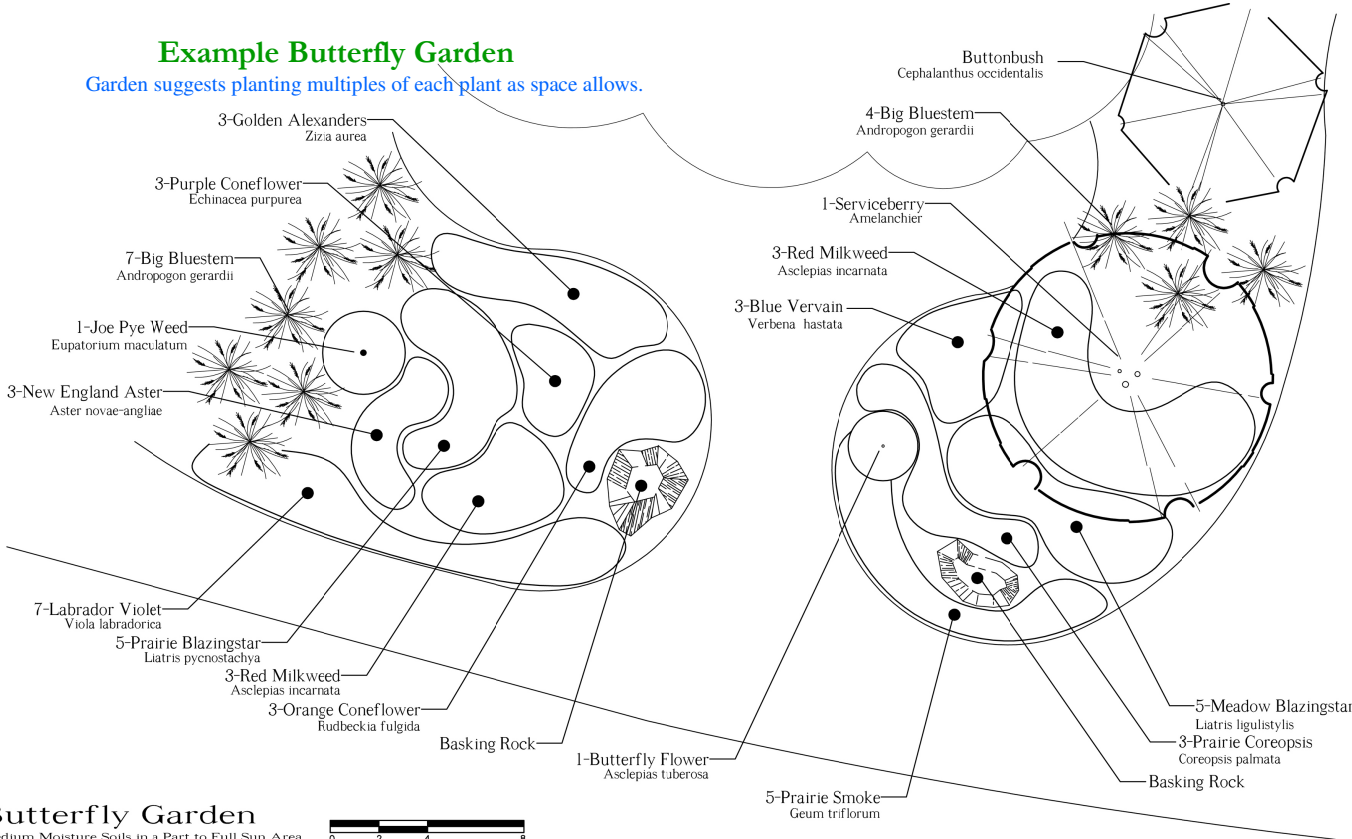


# Gardening for Butterflies



## Example Butterfly Garden

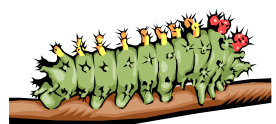
Garden suggests planting multiples of each plant as space allows.



## Butterfly Garden

Medium Moisture Soils in a Part to Full Sun Area

The Quarry Hill Butterfly Garden and above example were designed by Jeff Feece of Sargent's Landscaping Design and Garden Center



## Container Gardening for Butterflies:

Even if you just have a deck or patio, you can still attract butterflies. Some good annual nectar sources include:

Cosmos                      Marigold  
 Sweet Alyssum          Heliotrope  
 Zinnia                        Aster  
 Salvia                        Sweet William

## Hours:

Tour the butterfly garden anytime during park hours.  
 The park is open year-round dawn to dusk.

## Nature Center hours are:

Monday — Saturday: 9am– 5pm  
 Sundays & Holidays: 12pm– 5pm  
 Visit our website for summer hours [www.QHNC.org](http://www.QHNC.org)

Printing donated to the Nature Center by a local donor.

## Quarry Hill Nature Center

701 Silver Creek Rd. NE  
 Rochester, MN 55906  
 (507) 328-3950

[www.QHNC.org](http://www.QHNC.org)



If you plant it they will come — after all home is where the food is. Flowers will bring in butterflies for a visit, but with food plants for caterpillars, butterflies will take up residence.

Gardening for butterflies not only brings an exciting new dimension to your home landscaping, it also provides needed habitat to one of nature’s most celebrated insects!

## Butterfly Garden Characteristics

### Sunny Location

Butterflies are cold blooded and depend on the sun to warm the muscles necessary for flight. An ideal location for a butterfly garden would be one that receives early morning sun and receives at least 6 hours full sun during the day.

### Moisture

Like all living things butterflies require water. You may notice butterflies sipping morning dew off leaves or gathering around puddle edges and moist dirt. One way to provide water is to sink a shallow dish filled with sand to collect water. Add rocks for the butterflies to perch on.

### Rocks

Large rocks heat up quickly and retain heat, providing a great basking spot for butterflies to warm their small bodies.

### Shelter

Butterflies need protection from the weather. Trees, shrubs and tall grasses are an important dimension to a butterfly garden. They provide protection from strong winds as well as spots for hiding from predators.

### Overwintering Spots

Butterflies that endure Minnesota winters benefit from shelters. Consider placing a leaf pile, woodpile or a store bought butterfly house in a sheltered location near your garden to house these hardy butterflies.

### Chemical Free

Insecticides and herbicides can be deadly to butterflies, especially to the caterpillars. Be careful and thoughtful about chemicals you might use around your garden. Of course chemical-free is the best plan.

### Cater to Caterpillars

Caterpillars are picky eaters, some having as few as one plant that will host or feed them. Flowers and many trees can act as host plants. Butterflies will seek out the plants that their caterpillars will eat and lay their eggs there. Providing food sources for caterpillars will greatly increase the usefulness and attractiveness of your garden to butterflies.

### A Veritable Butterfly Buffet

Butterflies have different preferences for nectar plants, in both color and taste. A wide variety of nectar plants will give the greatest diversity of visitors. Grouping the same species together makes it easier for a butterfly to see their favorite food. Stagger bloom times in your garden to ensure there’s something to eat all season long.

### Locals Like to Eat the Local Food

Strive to select plants and seeds that are native to your area to entice the largest number of native butterflies. In addition to being the preferred nectar source, these plants are best adapted for the local climate and soil; and to resist predators and disease.



### Conservation

One of nature’s most celebrated and recognized butterflies needs our help! Find out how you can help by certifying your butterfly garden as an official Monarch Waystation, at:

[www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

Join in the nationwide annual Audubon Butterfly Count. It’s a fun way to learn about local butterflies and help scientist study local populations. Visit Audubon’s local chapter [www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org](http://www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org) for more information.

Butterfly	Host Plant (Caterpillar Needs)	Nectar Plant (Butterfly Needs)
Painted Lady	Thistle, Composites, Mallows	Aster, Blazing Star, Common Milkweed, Buttonbush, Purple Coneflower
Cabbage White	Nasturtium	Asters, Cosmos, Clover
Common Buckeye	Plantain, Figwort, Stonecrop	Aster, Swamp Milkweed, Tall Verbena
Eastern Black Swallowtail	Queen Ann’s Lace & other members of the carrot family (carrot, dill and parsley)	Phlox, Milkweed
Eastern Tailed Blue	Legumes, Clovers, Beans	Milkweed, Aster, Zinnia
Great Spangled Fritillary	Violets	Coneflowers, Bee balm, Milkweed, Ironweed
Monarch	Milkweeds	Milkweed, Blazing Star, Goldenrod, Zinnia
Mourning Cloak	Willow, Elm, Cottonwood, Hackberry	Daisy, Rotting fruit, Tree sap, Milkweed
Orange Sulfur	Vetch, White Clover	Goldenrod, Common Milkweed, Aster
Pearl Crescent	Aster	Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Milkweed, Purple Coneflower
Red Admiral	Nettles	Rotting Fruit, Dandelion, Clover, Aster
Tiger Swallowtail	Variety of broadleaf trees & shrubs Willow, Ash, Cottonwood, Birch, Cherry	Milkweed, Phlox, Bee balm, Lilac