

Ohio Native Nectar Sources

Black-eyed Susan
Bee Balm
Bergamot
Spicebush
Cardinal Flower
Butterfly Milkweed
Columbine
Hollow Joe-Pye Weed
Blazing Star
Purple Coneflower
Creeping phlox
Ohio Goldenrod
Wild Geranium
Trumpet Creeper

Hibernation

A handful of Ohio butterflies choose to stay in the state and hibernate through the winter. You may want to consider adding a butterfly box to your garden. These boxes not only provide shelter from the elements during the spring and summer, but provide butterflies with a safe place to hibernate until warm weather returns. There are a variety of butterfly boxes on the market to choose from.



Thank you for visiting My Shed at My House. Stop back each month for more green gardening tips and activities.



Gardening for Butterflies



Find out how to
use a variety of
plants to attract
butterflies to
your backyard.

Back to the Basics

The beautiful butterflies you see flying around your backyard all started out their life as a tiny egg attached to a leaf. After hatching, the small caterpillar that emerges eats the egg from which it came and begins to feast on its host plant. In order to have a successful butterfly garden you must provide for your winged friend's larval counterpart—the caterpillar.

Keep in mind that some caterpillars increase their weight one hundred times over between hatching and forming the chrysalis. So what does that mean for your garden? You will need to provide host plants and lots of them! Because without the hungry caterpillar there would be no butterflies.



Suggested Host Plants

Butterfly Milkweed
Swamp Milkweed
Parsley
Dill
Fennel
Clover
Peas
Snapdragon

Fluttering Butterflies

The crucial food source that butterflies need from the flowers in your garden is nectar. Different butterflies prefer different types of nectar plant. In order to attract a wide variety of butterfly species to your garden, there are a few things you should consider when picking out your plants:



1. Plant a variety of flower colors. Butterflies prefer purples, pinks, yellows and reds.
2. Plant a variety of flower heights
3. Plant flowers in clusters, not single flowers.
4. Fragrant flowers are a bonus. The butterfly has a strong sense of smell.
5. Choose a variety of plants that have differing bloom times through out the day and the season.
6. Plant your garden in an area with ample sun.
7. Provide a shade source for the butterflies.
8. Provide a permanent water supply.
9. **Do not** apply chemical pesticides to your garden or yard!

