

# CALLAWAY GARDENS HOME HORTICULTURE BUTTERFLY GARDENING

Creating a butterfly garden is an exciting and rewarding endeavor! It is easy to invite butterflies to your area by gardening with their needs in mind. These beautiful insects will add bright colors and entertaining antics to your garden display. Use the following techniques to produce a delightful butterfly garden in your own backyard.



## How to Create a Butterfly Garden

### LOCATE THE GARDEN IN A SUNNY AREA.

Butterflies and most butterfly-attracting plants require bright sunshine.

**PLANT NECTAR-PRODUCING FLOWERS.** Butterflies visit flowers in search of nectar, a sugary fluid, to eat.

Many native butterflies seem to prefer purple, yellow, orange, and red-colored blossoms. Clusters of short, tubular flowers or flat-topped blossoms provide the ideal shapes for butterflies to easily land and feed.

**SELECT SINGLE FLOWERS RATHER THAN DOUBLE FLOWERS.** The nectar of single flowers is more accessible and easier for butterflies to extract than the nectar of double flowers which have more petals per flower.

**USE LARGE SPLASHES OF COLOR IN YOUR LANDSCAPE DESIGN.** Butterflies are first attracted to flowers by their color. Groups of flowers are easier for butterflies to locate than isolated plants.

**PLAN FOR CONTINUOUS BLOOM THROUGHOUT THE GROWING SEASON.** Butterflies are active from early spring until late fall. Plant a selection of flowers that will provide nectar throughout the entire growing season (e.g. spring – azaleas, summer – buddleia, fall – chrysanthemums).

**INCLUDE HOST PLANTS IN THE GARDEN DESIGN.** Host plants provide food for caterpillars and lure female butterflies into the garden to lay eggs.

**INCLUDE DAMP AREAS OR SHALLOW PUDDLES IN THE GARDEN.** Some butterflies drink and extract salts from moist soil. Occasionally large numbers of male butterflies congregate around a moist area to drink, forming a "puddle club."

**PLACE FLAT STONES IN THE GARDEN.** Butterflies often perch on stones, bare soil or vegetation, spread their wings and bask in the sun. Basking raises their body temperature so they are able to fly and remain active.

**DO NOT USE PESTICIDES IN OR NEAR A BUTTERFLY GARDEN.** Most traditional garden pesticides are toxic to butterflies. Use predatory insects, insecticidal soap or hand remove the pests if problems occur.

**BECOME A BUTTERFLY WATCHER!** Get to know the colorful butterflies that visit your garden. They are easy to identify with a field guide such as *Butterflies and Moths—A Golden Guide* by R. T. Mitchell and H. S. Zim.