

Backyard Wildlife Habitat

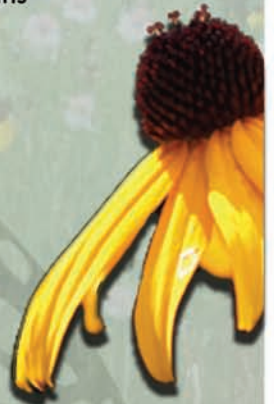
Gardening for Butterflies



Butterfly Biology

Butterflies and Moths are members of the same family of insects having wings covered by scales. It is these scales that give them their color. Mississippi is home to 139 species of butterflies. In order to have a successful butterfly garden you must have plants that meet the needs of all four stages of the butterflies life cycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult. After mating, female butterflies search for a host plant on which to lay eggs. For example, Monarchs lay eggs on Milkweed. In a few days the caterpillar will emerge and begin feeding on the host plant. Once the caterpillar is mature it will shed its skin and change into chrysalises. It is inside the chrysalis that the adult butterfly is formed. After emerging the adult butterfly begins searching out nectar rich flowers.

Attracting Butterflies



Key components of a butterfly garden.



Sunny Areas

Butterflies need areas to bask in the sun to keep warm . Placing rocks in these areas provide the perfect place for them to stay warm and remain active.



Vibrant colors

Butterflies are attracted to flowers by color and groups of flowers are easier for them to find than isolated flowers.



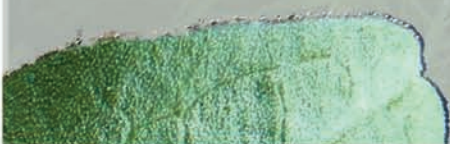
Host plants

Many female butterflies will only lay their eggs on certain plants. These host plants provide food for caterpillars when they emerge.



Moist areas

Butterflies do not drink from open water . Wet sand and mud are best for providing a place for butterflies to drink.





A Few Common Butterflies

Buckeye

Red Admirals

Crescents

Skippers

Question Mark

Sulphurs

Monarch

Swallowtails

Painted Ladies

Hairstreaks

Viceroy



It is important to remember

that butterflies need both

host plants and nectar plants.

When gardening for butterflies try

and avoid the use of pesticides.

Nectar Plants

Host Plants

Blackeyed Susan

Asters

Butterfly bush

Legumes (Beans)

Coreopsis

Parsley

Daisies

Maypop passion flower

Goldenrod

Willow

Lantana

Milkweed

Marigold

Sassafras

Phlox

Spicebush

Purple Coneflower

Hackberry

Verbena

Sunflowers

Zinnia

Crimson clover

