

GARDEN ACTIVITY- MAKING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN.

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Why do you like butterflies and why do you want to attract them to your garden ?

Butterflies are very beneficial for your garden because they not only look beautiful but they will help to pollinate the flowers of your plant. This helps the plants to make fruits and seeds. When you have butterflies in the garden you know it's a very healthy and happy area for wildlife because butterflies are so very sensitive to change.

Think about what your favourite butterfly you have seen is and if you'd want to attract that.



What flowers do they like the most ?

Butterflies are attracted to bright flowers open in the summer and autumn time. If there are specific butterflies you are wanting to attract then double check what their food plant is. At the end there will be a list of the food plants for local butterflies. For a more general approach sowing

wildflowers, planting flowering shrubs such as Buddleia- butterfly bush and colourful annuals. Seed packets and labels will be marked with a good for pollinators sign.

Where to have the garden-

An area with at least 6 hours sunlight. Butterflies need to bask in the sun and keep their wings warm to aid them with this, placing rocks for them to land on and soak up the heat.

What you will need.

- *Trowel*
- *An area for your butterfly garden to go*
- *Seeds, plants for the garden*
- *A helper*

Step 1- *scout out where a good place for the butterfly garden would be, that can be an area of grass, a plant pot or raised bed, hedges ..anything !*



Step 2- *choose what plants, seeds to prepare. Are there any specific butterflies you want to attract ?*

If not choose butterfly friendly plants that will grow well in your garden. So if you have a damp garden try ladies smock or birds foot trefoil for an area of long grass.

Step 3- plant them out with your helper. Making sure to have feeder plants to attract your butterflies and host plants for them to lay their eggs on, these are leafy plants for the caterpillar to munch off. Water them in well!

Step 4- decorate! add nice ornaments, large flat stones for them to bathe in the sun and a bowl of water as butterflies cannot drink from moving water sources.



Feeder plant list for butterflies.

Red admiral - nettles, buddleia

Painted lady - thistle, mallow and nettles

Tortoiseshell - buddleia, nettles.

Cabbage white - brassicas, nasturtiums

Meadow brown - grasses

Large white - nasturtiums, wild mignonette and anything from cabbage and mustard family.,

Small copper - dock, sorrel and knotgrass