



Flying requires great amounts of energy. Therefore, butterflies must locate high-energy food sources such as nectar-producing flowers. Nectar contains energy-rich sugars and has about the same basic chemical makeup, no matter what flower it comes from. Hence, a hungry adult butterfly may visit several different flowers for nectar. Likewise, a single nectar-producing flower may be visited by several different butterfly species. A wide variety of flowers, including many popular garden and landscape plants (Table 1), can provide nectar for butterflies. However, butterflies do have preferences.

Brightly-colored, fragrant plants are especially attractive. Plants with flower heads that contain small multiple florets, such as those found on asters, furnish butterflies with landing pads. Here butterflies can rest and sip nectar, as well as pollinate the plants.

Note that some ornamental flowering plants have been hybridized to produce particularly showy flowers. Unfortunately, these highly-developed plants may not be good sources of nectar. When selecting plants for nectar, avoid flowers described as "double" and instead choose the singular forms.

When you select plants for a butterfly garden, strive to have known butterfly plants in bloom from spring to late fall. To extend the blooming season, include annual flowers and remove dead flower-heads to extend blooming periods.

Good plants for containers include fuchsias, sweet alyssum, garden sage, dianthus, and lavender. For containers, avoid tall annuals such as tall marigolds, tall zinnias, and cosmos. To keep a butterfly garden from looking bleak during winter, include some plants with interesting winter structure or evergreen foliage-lavender and hyssop, for example.

# Table 1. Butterfly plants and Caterpillar Plants

Plants are listed alphabetically by their botanical name. The botanical name includes the Genus and the species. When referencing more than one plant species in a particular genus, the abbreviation "spp." is used. Considered seeking assistance from a horticulturalist or local nursery specializing in native and wildlife plants, or the local chapter of Washington Native Plant Society, to determine which species and varieties of plants are appropriate for your area, or zone.



Nectar plants that are food sources for butterflies in their adult stage.

- A =
- **C** = Larval food plants that are food sources for butterflies in their caterpillar stage.
- \* = A plant or genus that is native to the Pacific Northwest.
- Bold type = Recommended plant

#### Do not plant Butterfly bush (Buddleia spp.), it has been declared a noxious weed

Eve	rgreen Trees	Gard	den Peren
A,C	Madrona, Arbutus menziesii *	A,C	Lupine,
С	Incense-cedar, Calocedrus sp. *	А	Monkey
С	Pine, Pinus spp. *	А	Bee balr
С	Douglas-fir, Pseudotsuga sp. *	А	Catmint
		А	Penstemo
Dec	iduous Trees	А	Phlox, P
С	Maple, Acer spp. *	А	Black-eye
С	Alder, Alnus spp. *	А	Pincushi
С	Birch, <i>Betula</i> spp. *	A,C	Fall sedu
A,C	Dogwood, Cornus spp. *	A,C	Dusty mille
A,C	Native Black Hawthorn, Crataegus spp. *	А	Tall verb
A,C	Garden apple, crabapple, Malus spp.		
С	Black Cottonwood, Populus spp. *	Grou	und Cover
С	Aspen, Populus tremuloides *	С	Kinnikin
A,C	Bitter Cherry, Prunus spp. *	А	Seathrif
С	Oak, Quercus spp. *	С	Salal, Ga
С	Cascara, Rhamnus purshiana *	А	Heather, I
A,C	Willow, Salix spp. *	А	Wild straw
		А	Candytu
Eve	green Shrubs (short and tall)		
С	Manzanita, Arctostaphylos spp. *	Vine	es and Vin
A,C	Wild-lilac (Mountain balm), Ceanothus spp. *	С	Hops, <i>Hur</i>
А	Buckbrush, Ceanothus spp. *	А	Honeysu
А	Escallonia, <i>Escallonia</i> spp.	А	Twinber
С	Salal, Gaultheria shallon *	A,C	Trailing
А	Hyssop, Hyssopsis officinalis		
А	Lavender, Lavandula spp.	Wild	lflowers
А	Oregon-grape, Mahonia aquifolium *	A,C	Pearly eve
A,C	Rhododendron, Rhododendron spp. *	A,C	Angelica,
	Thimbleberry Rubus parviflorus	A,C	Butterfly
	Salmonberry Rubus spectabilis	С	Bleeding
А	Germander, Teucrium chamaedrys	А	Wild-buc
		А	Gilia, Gili
Dec	iduous Shrubs	A,C	Cow-pars
			-

A,C Serviceberry, Amelanchier alnifolia \* Oceanspray, Holodiscus spp. \*

Bluebeard, Caryopteris spp.

Rabbitbrush, Chrysothamnus spp. \*

Mock-orange, Philadelphus lewisii \*

A,C Red-twig dogwood, Cornus sericea \*

Chokecherry, Prunus virginiana \*

- A.C
- С Checker mallow, Sidalcea oregana \*
- А
- С Dandelion, Taraxacum officinale
- С Violet, Viola spp. \*

С

А

А

Ν A,C

# nnials (cont)

Lupinus spp. \*

- flower, Mimulus spp. \*
- I**m**, Monarda didyma
- t, Nepeta spp.
- on, Penstemon spp. \*
- Phlox spp. \*
- ed Susan, Rudbeckia hirta
- nion flower, Scabiosa spp.
- l**um**, Sedum spectabile
- ller, Senecio cineraria
- bena, Verbena bonariensis

#### rs

- nnik, A. uva-ursi \*
- ft, Armeria maritima \*
- aultheria shallon \*
- Erica spp.
- wberry, Fragaria spp. \*
- uft, Iberis spp.

#### ne-like Plants

- umulus lupulus
- uckle, Lonicera ciliosa; L. hispidula\*
- rry, Lonicera involucrate\*
- nasturtium, T. majus
- erlasting, Anaphalis margaritacea \*
- Angelica lucida \*
- ly weed, Asclepias spp. \*
- ig heart, Dicentra spp. \*
- ckwheat, Erigonium spp. \*
- *ilia* spp. \*
- snip, Heracleum lanatum \*
- A,C Desert-parsley, Lomatium spp. \*
- Lupine, Lupinus spp. \*
- Goldenrod, Solidago spp. \*
- С Stinging nettle, Urtica dioica \*

A,C	Bitterbrush, Purshia tridentata *	
А	Wild azalea, R. occidentale *	Gar
A,C	Wild rose, Rosa spp. *	А
А	Elderberry, Sambucus spp. *	А
A,C	Spirea, Spiraea spp. *	С
А	Lilac, Syringa spp.	А
А	Garden blueberry, Vaccinium spp.	А
А	Chaste tree, Vitex agnus-catus	А
		А
Gare	den Perennials	А
А	Yarrow, Achillea spp. *	A,C
С	Rockcress, Arabis caucasica	A,C
А	Aster, Aster spp. *	А
А	Yellow alyssum, Aurinia saxatilis	А
А	Campanula, Campanula spp. *	А
А	Daisy, Chrysanthemum spp.	
	Native thistles Cirsium edule;	Gar
	Other native Cirsium spp	А
А	Coreopsis, Coreopsis spp.	А
А	Clove (Cottage) pink, Dianthus spp.	А
А	Coneflower, Echinacea purpurea	А
А	Globe-thistle, Echinops spp.	A,C
А	Sea-holly, Eryngium amethystinum	
А	Wallflower, Erysimum spp.	
А	Blanket flower, Gaillardia spp. *	
А	Heliotrope, Heliotropium spp.	
А	Gayfeather, <i>Liatris</i> spp.	
А	Statice, Limonium latifolium	

#### **Garden Annual Flowers**

- A Ageratum, Ageratum houstonianum
- A Alyssum, Alyssum maritima
- C Borage, Borago officinalis
- A Calendula, Calendula officinalis
- A Clarkia, Clarkia spp. \*
- Spiderflower, Cleome spinosa
- Cosmos, Cosmos bipinnatus
- Sweet William, Dianthus barbatus
- A,C Sunflower, *Helianthus* spp.
- ,C Forget-me-not, Myosotis spp.
- French marigold, Tagetes patula
- Low verbena, Verbena spp.
- A Zinnia, Zinnia elegans

#### Garden Herbs and Vegetables

- Garden mint, Mentha spp.
- A Oregano, Origanum vulgare
- A Garden sage, Salvia spp.
- A **Thyme**, *Thymus* spp.
- A,C Broccoli, carrot, kale, radish Stinging nettle

### Plants for Breeding and Caterpillar Food

The caterpillar is the main feeding and growing stage in the butterfly life cycle. If you welcome the opportunity to observe the entire butterfly life cycle in your yard, you must furnish breeding plants and larval (caterpillar) food. Although mating may occur anywhere, females probably will not venture great distances from specific caterpillar host plants, especially if there is an ample supply of nectar nearby.

Adult butterflies lay their eggs on or near specific host plants because these plants supply all nutritional needs of the caterpillars. Caterpillars are much pickier about their food than their adult counterparts. This specificity is apparently so strong that most caterpillars will starve to death if they cannot find their host plants in a field or yard soon after emerging from the egg.

Fortunately, many larval food plants are common and your yard may already have some. However, if you know what butterflies occur in your area, you can make a point of planting caterpillar plants listed in Table 1. These plants are sometimes partially or completely consumed by the caterpillar. Some larval host plants have weedy characteristics, so locating the breeding and feeding grounds in a patch of wild vegetation in a corner of your property is advised. Group larval food plants just as you would nectar plants. This will help females locate future nursery sites and provide caterpillars with ample nourishment.

# **Furnish Breeding and Feeding Grounds**

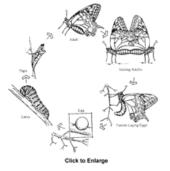
#### Lifecycle of the Anise Swallowtail Butterfly

If you are truly concerned with butterfly conservation and welcome the opportunity to observe the entire butterfly life cycle in your own yard, you should furnish breeding and larval (caterpillar) feeding grounds for butterflies. Although mating may occur anywhere, reproductively successful females probably will not venture great distances from specific host plants (plants eaten by the caterpillars), especially if there is an ample supply of nectar nearby. Most adult butterflies lay their eggs on or near specific host plants because these plants meet the nutritional needs of the caterpillars hatched from the eggs. This specificity is apparently so strong that most caterpillars will starve to death if they cannot find their host plants in a field or yard soon after emerging from the egg.

Fortunately, many larval food plants are common and your yard probably already has some. However, if you know what butterflies occur in your area, you can make a point of planting larval plants listed in Table 1.

It's generally a good idea to group larval plants just as you would nectar plants. This will help females locate future nursery sites and provide caterpillars with ample nourishment.

Please realize that the caterpillar is the main feeding and growing state in the butterfly life cycle. Therefore, these larval plants are sometimes partially or completely consumed. Also, some larval host plants may have weedy characteristics. Consequently, you may want to locate the breeding and feeding grounds in a patch of





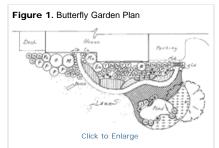
wild vegetation in a corner of your property.

# **Create a Planting Plan**

A simple planting plan (Fig 1.) allows you to experiment with and plan the locations of plants on paper before any work begins. It can be drawn freehand on any blank piece of paper and may include as much detail as you choose. A more detailed plan can be drawn to scale and may include plant species, locations, quantities, and spacing. You may use a circle template to make different size circles to represent the sizes of plants. Design according to plant color, shape, sun/shade requirements, height, and soil needs.

Keep your ideas flexible; final adjustments to any plan will always occur at planting time.

Before planting the new butterfly garden, experiment with its shape by outlining the boundaries with a garden hose or several stakes pounded in the ground. You can move these into different shapes and then use the line to provide a well-defined edge. Spade and/or till the soil and add compost or other organic material as needed. Bear in mind that some of the best butterfly plants require fertile, well-drained soil. For successful plant survival, it is best to research the plant requirements before you design your garden.



Example of a planting plan. When creating a planting plan, first experiment with plant locations; don't be too concerned about exact species and their locations.

Finally, place the plants while still in their containers where you think they belong. Step back, view the area from various angles, and see if you want to change anything. Be sure to provide plenty of water for the new plants right after planting and during the first growing season.

**No insecticides**; they are designed to kill insects which is what a butterfly is. Use natural diversity to control other insect populations by planting many species of plants.

## **Enhancement Features for Butterflies**



## Water Sources and Mineral Sources

Butterflies take water and trace minerals from patches of wet sand or soil. Having one of these amenities can attract a large party of butterflies to one spot. Mud around the edge of a pond, under a hose bib, or a birdbath may already be a popular spot.

To create a small damp puddle site, dig out 2 or 3 inches of soil about 24 inches wide in a frequently watered area. Water will collect there. Another way to provide a drinking

place is to sink a small bucket in the ground and fill it almost to the top with wet sand. A shallow terra cotta plant saucer sunk into the ground and kept moist works well and may be filled with over-ripe fruit which butterflies love. Place these water sources in sunny areas out of the wind and near nectar plants. If cats are a concern, put wet sand in a birdbath or other elevated container.

#### **Basking and Hibernation Sites**

On cool days, in the morning, and periodically throughout the day, butterflies warm their blood and flight muscles by basking with their wings open to the sun. Place a few large stones or rocks in sunny areas or facing south to serve as basking sites. Again, if cats are a concern, put rocks in a birdbath or other elevated container.

Some butterfly species overwinter as adults but must migrate south. Butterflies that overwinter in colder areas such as the Washington do so as eggs (such as the banded hairstreak), furry caterpillars (fritillaries and crescents) and pupae (in the chrysalis such as tiger swallowtails and cabbage whites). The best way to help butterflies survive the winter is to adopt a maintenance plan that meets your aesthetic requirements without disturbing the butterfly over-wintering survival habitat. Don't be too concerned about tidiness in all areas of your property. Over-zealous fall yard and garden cleanup removes the very stuff that butterflies depend on to get through the winter, including snags, downed branches and wood, thick undergrowth, and brush piles. Research indicates that "butterfly hibernation boxes" which you may have seen in garden stores and catalogs have not been effective at attracting overwintering butterflies because the structure does not match the natural form.

### **Natural Areas**

Many butterfly species seek shelter among thick plants and tall grasses at night and during bad weather. If possible, leave or add wild patches in out-of-the-way places in your yard, or discontinue mowing a patch of lawn. A bonus is that you'll probably be growing larval plants, too. To avoid complaints, mow a strip around the unmowed area and let neighbors and local officials know what you are trying to accomplish (Fig. X). Registering your yard as a WDFW Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary and installing the signs often helps neighbors understand and appreciate your intentions.

#### Moths

Moths are fascinating visitors to the evening garden. Be sure to go "moth watching" at dusk on some warm summer evening. Use a flashlight after dark and try covering it with red cellophane so as not to distract moths from feeding.



In addition to being important pollinators, moths are a critical food source for breeding birds, bats, and spiders. There are at least ten times as many moth species as butterflies in Washington. Of the 6,000

species of moths in North America, only two have caterpillars that favor woolen garments and carpets. Most larvae (caterpillars) feed on a variety of plants including alder, apples, azaleas, fuchsias, grapes, cottonwood, poplar, willow, snowberry, and cherry. Adult sphinx moths extract nectar from deep-throated, fragrant flowers that open at night. Like hummingbirds, they hover in flight

while feeding, but instead of the long beak, they have a long tongue like a drinking straw.

#### Differences between moths and butterflies include:

Butterflies	Moths
Day fliers	Generally night fliers
Often brightly colored	Generally less colorful (with some dramatic exceptions)
Antennae is not feathery and are knobbed at the ends	Antennae may be feathery and not knobbed
Pupa has no silky cocoon around it	Pupa is often in a silky cocoon

Moths and butterflies take nectar from many of the same plants. Flowers that attract night-flying moths include:

## Moths and butterflies take nectar from many of the same plants. Flowers that attract nightflying moths include:

Catmint, Nepeta spp.	Sweet William, Dianthus barbatus
Evening-primrose, Oenothera spp.	Fireweed, Epilobium angustifolium
Petunia, <i>Petunia x hybrida</i>	Jasmine, Jasmine spp.
Mock-orange, Philadelphus spp.	Honeysuckle, Lonicera spp.
Tall garden phlox, Phlox spp.	Four o'clock, Mirabilis jalapa
Lilac, <i>Syringa</i> spp.	Beebalm, Monarda didyma
Yucca, Yucca filamentosa	Flowering tobacco
Butterfly bush, Buddleia davidii	

### Do not purchase and release farm-raised mail-ordered butterflies.

These butterflies, while possibly a species that occurs locally, do not have the genetics of our local butterflies and could introduce characteristics that are not adapted to this area, such as breeding out non-overwintering instincts, or they may weaken the genetics of our local populations. They could also introduce a devastating disease, in addition to competing for the ever-dwindling habitat of our local populations.

## Watching Butterflies and Conducting a Butterfly Survey

Few other insects can be as pleasing to watch as butterflies, not only for their fascinating flight patterns but also for sheer beauty of color and pattern. Butterfly watching can also give you a new awareness of the plants and habitats around your property.



You can survey what types of butterflies appear in your neighborhood during the warm times of the year. Use colored photographs from the references for identification. Mark the pages containing the common species for quick reference.

Butterflies are best found in open, sunny areas that have flowers. Your own yard is a good place to start. Any rural roadside will also do. Powerline cuts, irrigation ditches, mud-puddle margins, sunny streamsides, and a city bed of annual flowers are other good sites. Take notes on what plants butterflies visit. You can use these notes later to decide which plants to include in your butterfly garden.

Butterflies are best observed when feeding or basking in the sun. On cool days and in the mornings, butterflies can be seen basking in the sunlight with their wings open and their bodies perpendicular to the sun to absorb heat quickly from the sun's rays. They also sometimes become so involved in drinking that you can approach to within inches. When approaching butterflies, move slowly and fluidly.

Binoculars are almost as helpful to the butterfly-watcher as to the birder. They enable you to survey a large field for butterflies, or to sit on your porch to view your butterfly garden. Lower-powered binoculars that focus closer are best. Eventually you'll be able to identify certain butterflies "on the wing." Finally, when looking for butterflies, think small; many common species have a wing span of an inch or less.

# Table 2. Some Common Pacific Northwest Butterflies

The following list includes some of the common butterflies found in different areas of Washington. For identification, use the colored plates provided in books listed under "References." After you've identified the species found in your area, you can use the plants listed to attract them to your yard

Food plants =	Plants eaten by butterfly larvae (caterpillars); also called host plants.
Nectar sources =	Nectar-producing flowers and other nectar sources, such as manure and rotting fruit that are used by adult butterflies.

Anise swallowtail Silvery blue
Food plants: Desert-parsley, fennel, carrot, garden parsley, cowparsnip, seaside angelica.
Silvery blue
Food plants: Mostly lupine; also wild pea, vetch, clover and other
lequmes.

Nectar sources: Butterfly bush, desert-parsley, penstemon, garden mint, zinnia, lantana, coltsfoot.				
		Lorquin's ad	miral	
Western tiger swallowtail		Food plants:	Willow, chokecherry, aspen, oceanspray, cottonwood,	
	<ul> <li>Big-leaf maple, willow, aspen, poplar, cottonwood, sycamore, cherry, alder, apple, serviceberry, hawthorn.</li> <li>Common lilac, butterfly bush, mock-orange, rhododendron, blackberry, thistle, phlox, garden mint, lily, lavender, verbena, wallflower, honeysuckle, sweet</li> </ul>	Nectar sources:	hardhack spirea, cherry, apple. Thistle, mustard, blackberry, giant-hyssop, Barrett's penstemon; also rotting fruit, animal droppings, carrion.	
Nectal Sources.				
	William, clove pink, giant-hyssop.	Red admiral		
		•	Mostly stinging nettle.	
Pale swallow	rtail	Nectar sources:	: Butterfly bush, daisy, aster, thistle, dandelion, goldenrod, gayfeather, ageratum, milkweed, candytuft, alfalfa,	
	Buckbrush, cherry, hawthorn, cascara, alder, hardhack spiraea, oceanspray, currant, coffeeberry. Oceanspray, penstemon, columbine, and those listed for		sedum, wallflower, fireweed, red clover, mallow, sea- holly, garden mint, red-valerian, penstemon, spiraea, germander.	
	Western tiger swallowtail.			
Pine white		Painted lady		
	Pine (especially western white and ponderosa pine), Douglas-fir, fir, hemlock, red-cedar.	-	Mostly thistle; also, sunflower, pearly everlasting, stinging nettle, borage, hollyhock, legumes.	
Nectar sources:	Butterfly bush, dusty miller, daisies, coreopsis, lobelia, goldenrod, strawflower.	Nectar sources: Oregon-grape, rabbitbrush, butterfly bush, zinnia, dandelion, thistle, gayfeather, aster, daisy, cosmo garden mint, sweet William, red-valerian, red clow milkweed, pincushion flower, wallflower, candytuft		
Orange sulph	ur		coneflower, aster.	
Food plants:	Alfalfa, clover, and other legumes.			
-	Alfalfa and other legumes, mustard, thistle, aster, red-twig	Mourning clo		
	dogwood.	-	Elm, cottonwood, poplar, willow, birch, hackberry, hawthorn, wild rose.	
Cabbage whi	te (Cabbage butterfly)	Nectar sources: Willow, butterfly bush, milkweed, rock- cress, Shas daisy, daphne; also tree sap and rotting fruit.		
-	Cabbage, broccoli, radish, mustard, nasturtium, spiderflower.			
Nectar sources:	Butterfly bush, money plant, blackberry, coreopsis,	Milbert's tort		
	dandelion, thistle, sweet pea.		Stinging nettle. Willow, butterfly bush, lilac, thistle, daisy, goldenrod,	
Sara oranget	ip		marigold, ageratum, stonecrop, wallflower, aster, dandelion, calendula.	
Food plants:	Winter cress, nasturtium, moneyplant, rockcress.			
Nectar sources:	Cherry, strawberry, monkey flower, dandelion, violet, rock cress, coltsfoot.	Mylitta cresc	cent	
		Food plants: Thistle.		
Brown elfin		Nectar sources:	Pearly everlasting, hawkbit, goldenrod, aster.	
	The flower parts, buds and seed pods of apple, salal,			
	buckbrush, bitterbrush, manzanita, rhododendron, azalea,	Satyr comma	a (Satyr anglewing)	
	bog-laurel, Labrador tea, oceanspray, blueberry, sedum,	Food plants:	Stinging nettle.	
Nectar sources:	kinnikinnik. s: Cherry, willow, osoberry, bitterbrush, winter cress,	Nectar sources:	Dandelion, aster, blackberry; also rotting fruit, tree sap.	
	blueberry, wild-buckwheat, kinnikinnik.	Common wo	od nymph	
<b>o</b>		Food plants: Grasses.		
Spring azure		Nectar sources:	Coneflower, garden mint, sunflower, fleabane,	
Food plants:	d plants: Flower parts and seeds of dogwood, oak, buckthorn, apple, madrone, viburnum, cherry, plum, sumac, blueberry, escallonia, cotoneaster, hardhack, manzanita, oceanspray, cinquefoil, salal.		penstemon, spiraea, mock-orange, alfalfa, clematis; also rotting fruit, tree sap.	
Nectar sources:	Cherry, plum, willow, mountain-lilac, rock cress, winter	Woodland sk	ipper	
	cress, escallonia, blackberry, cotoneaster, milkweed,	Food plants:	Grasses; caterpillars feed at night.	
	forget-me-not, dandelion, violet, miner's lettuce, many plants in the mustard family.	Nectar sources:	Bluebeard, lavender, butterfly bush, oregano, coreopsis, pearly everlasting, statice, black-eyed Susan, thistle, dandelion, marigold, fall sedum, lobelia, aster.	

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- Seattle Audubon Society, 8050 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115. www.seattleaudubon.org

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EMPLOYMENT REPORT A VIO	OLATION NEWS MAILING LISTS CONTACT WDFW
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