

# What Attracts Butterflies to Your Garden?



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# What Attracts Butterflies to Your Garden?



Colorful wings, intriguing life cycles, and a graceful flying style make butterflies some of the most interesting creatures in the natural world. Their fluttering presence not only enriches our gardens and outdoor spaces but also provides an important link in the food chain.

But why are butterflies attracted to certain gardens and not others? By understanding what these delicate creatures need to thrive, we can create butterfly-friendly environments that provide food, water, and shelter – everything they need to survive and even flourish.

When you hire **JC's Landscaping** for landscaping installation and construction, we can help you choose the best flowers to attract butterflies.

Here are some of the things that butterflies look for when they're on the hunt for a new place to call home

**Flower Type** - One of the most important things butterflies need is a continuous supply of nectar-rich flowers.

When choosing plants for your butterfly garden, look for plant species that produce large quantities of nectar and that have long flowering seasons. Some of the best choices include coneflowers, cosmos, daylilies, impatiens, and zinnias.

In addition to nectar, many butterflies also feed on pollen. To attract these pollinators to your garden, plant species that are known to produce high amounts of pollen, such as marigolds and sunflowers.

**Flower Color** - Butterflies are attracted to certain colors more than others. Reds, yellows, oranges, and purples are particularly appealing to these insects, so try to include a mix of these hues in your butterfly garden.

**Overripe Fruit** - Some butterflies are attracted to overripe fruit. If you want to attract these types of butterflies to your garden, consider planting fruits and vegetables known to attract them, such as bananas, melons, and squash.

**Water Sources** - Butterflies need water just like any other creature, so it's important to provide a source of fresh water in your butterfly garden. A small birdbath or shallow dish filled with sand and pebbles is all you need to give these insects the hydration they crave.

**Shelter** - When it comes to shelter, butterflies are looking for two things: a place to rest and a place to lay their eggs. To provide both of these things, you'll need to include a mix of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants in your butterfly garden.

Some of the best choices for shelter include butterfly bushes, lilacs, milkweed, and thistles. These plants provide a place for butterflies to rest and produce the leaves that caterpillars feed on.

## What Food Do Larvae Feed On?

While adult butterflies feed on nectar, larvae (or caterpillars) feed on leaves. To make sure your butterfly garden can support the entire life cycle of these insects, choose plants that produce a lot of leaves, such as cabbage and lettuce. Some feed on flowers and seed heads.

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