

Monarch and Butterfly Gardens



Butterflies are beautiful, amazing creatures. They bring a sense of beauty, wonder, and joy to the world. It's surprisingly easy to capture some of that magic at home!

Getting Started

Choose a sunny spot, preferably protected from the wind. Plant some of the native nectar plants listed below (at least one from each season), choose which caterpillars you'd like to support and plant their host plants, mulch well, water your plants occasionally, and enjoy!

Special Tips for Monarchs

Plant 1 milkweed for every 3 nectar plants to help provide protection for caterpillars. Choose native milkweeds when available. If non-native Tropical Milkweed (*A. currasivica*) is all you can find, be sure to cut it back in mid-October to encourage Monarchs to continue their migration to Mexico and to prevent parasites from infecting the plant and Monarchs.

Nectar Plants

Native plants are the best way to attract butterflies to your yard. Native plants and pollinators have evolved together and depend on each other to complete their lifecycles.

Spring/Summer

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Butterfly bush (*buddelia* sp), Texas Lantana (*Lantana horrida/urticoides*), Salvia (*Salvia greggii*), Verbenas, Gregg's Blue mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*), Blackfoot Daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*)

Summer/Fall

Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Texas Lantana (*Lantana horrida/urticoides*), Shrubby Boneset /White mistflower (*Ageratina havanensis*), Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*), Butterfly bushes (*Buddleia davidii*), Zexmenia (*Zexmenia hispida*), Fall Aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*)

Host Plants

Monarchs: Milkweeds (*Asclepias sp.*) ONLY.

Black swallowtails: fennel, rue, parsley, dill.

Giant swallowtails: citrus leaves. (Fun fact: Swallowtail caterpillars look like bird poo!)

Common buckeye: Ruellia

Red Admiral: Asters

Painted Lady: Asters, mallows, coneflowers, sunflowers

Gulf Fritillary: Passion vines

Bordered Patch: Sunflowers

Maintaining your Butterfly Garden

If you choose to fertilize, do so with organic composts and fertilizers, and never use pesticides or herbicides near your butterfly garden. If your native perennials look a little ragged, cut them back to about 6" around Valentine's Day and the new spring growth will be lush and bushy again.

For More Information

Native Plant Society of Texas (Native Plants for Butterfly Gardens):

<http://npsot.org/wp/story/2014/4971/>

Monarch Watch (Creating a Certified Monarch Waystation):

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

For additional help planning your butterfly gardens, visit Round Rock Gardens at 901 Sam Bass Rd., Round Rock, TX 78681.