Butterflies in the Garden

Of the many creatures at home in the garden, few can match the grace and beauty of butterflies. They are important pollinators and a delight to see in any

A garden that includes plants for the entire life cycle will attract a variety of native butterflies. Butterfly larvae need host plants for food and as a place to pu butterflies require nectar sources for food and plants for egg-laying.

Tips for Planting a Butterfly Garden

- Place your garden in a sunny place and provide rocks for butterflies to bask in the sun. Butterflies are sun-lovers and cannot fly until the sun's w
- Group plants together to create a mass of color.
- Plant shrubs and trees nearby to offer a hiding place from predators and to shelter butterflies from the wind.
- Provide moisture. Butterflies extract water and minerals from damp soil.
- Avoid pesticides. They kill butterflies and their caterpillars.

To attract a diversity of butterflies and other pollinators in your garden, select a variety of plants with different floral colors, shapes, sizes and bloom times. native to the Mid-Atlantic region and are listed based on their benefit for the different butterfly stages.

Caterpillar Host Plants	Plants for Nectar Sources
Trees	**Shrubs**
* *Salix caroliniana* (willow)	* *Symphyotrichum* spp., *Eurybia* spp., etc. (aster species)
* *Asimina triloba* (pawpaw)	* *Coreopsis verticillata* (whorled tickseed)
* *Betula nigra* (river birch)	* *Echinacea* spp. (coneflower)
* *Carpinus caroliniana* (American hornbeam)	* *Eupatorium fistulosum* (Joe Pye weed)
* *Cercis canadensis* (Eastern redbud)	* *Gaillardia x grandiflora* (blanket flower)
* *Cornus florida* (dogwood)	* *Gaura lindheimeri* (Lindheimer's beeblossom)
* *Juniperus virginiana* (Eastern red cedar)	* *Heliopsis helianthoides* (smooth oxeye)
* *Ptelea trifoliata* (common hop-tree)	* *Hibiscus moscheutos* (rose-mallow)
* *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras)	* *Nepeta x faassenii* (giant catmint)
* *Quercus velutina* (black oak)	* *Oenothera* spp. (evening primrose)
Shrubs	* *Phlox carolina* (thickleaf phlox)
* *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush)	* *Phlox paniculata* (fall phlox)
* *Rhus* spp. (sumac)	* *Parthenium integrifolium* (American feverfew)
* *Viburnum dentatum*	* *Rudbeckia fulgida* (Black-eyed Susan)
Herbaceous Perennials	* *Sedum* spp.
* *Antennaria plantaginifolia* (pussy toes)	
* *Symphyotrichum* spp., *Eurybia* spp., etc. (aster species)	
* *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed)	
* *Chelone glabra, C. lyonii* (turtlehead)	

Grasses

* *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass)
* *Penstemon digitalis* (talus slope penstemon)