

## ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES



THE WEATHER'S GETTING WARMER, AND ANY DAY NOW THE BUTTERFLIES WILL BE BACK. Here are a few tips on how you can attract more of these beautiful insects to your garden, compliments of the Canadian Wildlife Federation:

Butterflies are most attracted to sunny spots that are sheltered from prevailing winds. By planting a diversity of native plants that are abundant in nectar you'll attract the greatest variety of butterflies.

**Spring:** cherry, crab apple, flowering currant, hawthorn, lilac and violet.

**Late Spring and early Summer:** bleeding heart, columbine, coreopsis, dogwood, lupine, phlox and virburnum.

**Mid-summer:** bee balm, blue flax, butterfly bush (surprise!), cone flower, evening primrose, fireweed, hyssop, lavender, milkweed, roses, potentilla, sedum.

**Late Summer - Fall:** aster, blazing star, black-eyed Susan, clematis, blue vervain, ironweed, jewelweed, Joe-pye weed, everlasting phlox, sunflower, thistle, yarrow.

On hot summer days, thirsty butterflies will come to shallow water in a dish or birdbath, with half-submerged stones as perches. A wet, muddy spot will attract mud-puddling species such as yellow and black swallowtails. And a few flat stones placed in a sheltered corner will attract butterfly sunbathers.

At the end of the season, be careful as you clean up your garden to avoid destroying the pupae of butterflies that overwinter on plant stems. Some leaf litter or a brush pile in a sheltered corner of your garden can provide a safe place to hibernate.

And finally, perhaps most important, remember that *pesticides are a butterfly's worst enemy*. If you must use pesticides (must you, really?) then choose organic ones, use them sparingly and selectively after sundown, when most butterflies are inactive.

*The Canadian Wildlife Federation website at [www.cwf-fcf.org](http://www.cwf-fcf.org) is well worth a visit.*