

How to Establish a Butterfly or Pollinator Garden

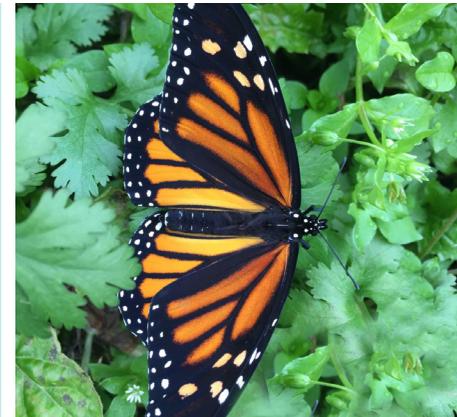
The garden should be located where it receives the greatest amount of sun exposure possible. Insects such as butterflies and pollinators are cold-blooded and depend on the sun to warm their bodies. Also, the plants on which butterflies and pollinators depend generally grow better in full sun (six or more hours of sunshine per day). Pollinators and butterflies will meet their season-long need for food, specifically nectar and pollen from flowers in trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. An effective pollinator habitat will provide pollen and nectar sources as well as host plants that are necessary for specific butterflies to lay eggs on. Hosts include citrus trees. Throughout the growing season, the habitat will offer a variety of flower shapes and sizes for pollinators to feed on. Plant in groups (mass planting)—not rows—to increase the likelihood of butterflies and other pollinators finding and choosing the garden for a feeding stop.



Keep Friendswood Beautiful is an all volunteer group working to improve our environment. We work under the City of Friendswood's Parks and Recreation Department.



STEVENSON PARK
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Gardening for Butterflies & Pollinators

The flash of a colorful butterfly and the buzz of a bumble bee traveling between flowers brings extra beauty and enjoyment to gardens. Planning a garden or landscape to include plants that attract and sustain butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects can increase populations of these desired insects and increase the diversity that can be observed and enjoyed. In addition, pollinator gardens help preserve butterflies, bees and other pollinators that are threatened and in decline.

Why Does Pollination Matter to Us?

World-wide, roughly 1,000 of the 1,200 plant species grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices and medicines need to be pollinated by animals in order to produce the goods on which we depend. Food and beverages produced with the help of pollinators include apples, blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, pumpkins, vanilla and almonds, to name a few. In the United States, pollination by bees and other insects produce \$40 billion worth of products annually. Today, insects are facing a rate of extinction unlike ever seen before because of sprayed insecticides, poisons and toxic man-made chemicals. Without the insects our world will be out of balance.



Plants for Monarch & Pollinator Gardens

Native plants suitable for gardens in Gulf Coast Area.

Monarch Host Plants	N	P	B	A
Slim milkweed <i>Asclepias linearis</i>	X	X		
Shore, Aquatic, or White Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias perennis</i>	X	X		
Green antelope horn or Green milkweed <i>Asclepias viridis</i>	X	X		
Zizotes milkweed <i>Asclepias oenotheriodes</i>	X	X		

Nectar Plants for Monarchs and Other Pollinators

Spring	N	P	B	A
Tropical Sage <i>Salvia coccinea</i>	X	X		
Prairie Nymph <i>Herbertia lahue</i>	X	X		
Lyreleaf Sage <i>Salvia lyrata</i>	X	X		
Plains Coreopsis <i>Coreopsis tanctoria</i>	X			X
Wine Cups <i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	X	X		
Fleabane Daisy <i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	X		X	
Autumn	N	P	B	A
Texas Lantana <i>Lantana urtecoides</i>	X	X		
Blue mistflower <i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	X	X		
Frostweed <i>Verbesina virginica</i>	X		X	
Goldenrod (all types) <i>Solidago spp</i>	X	X		
Turk's cap <i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i>	X	X		
Swamp or Narrow Leaf Sunflower <i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	X	X		

N = Native, **P** = Perennial, **A** = Annual, **B** = Biennial

More native and non-native plants can be found by consulting the North American Plant Atlas or by visiting the Plants Database at <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>.

Butterflies

Butterflies are among the best-known and most popular of all insects. Butterflies fly during the daytime and when at rest most hold their four, brightly colored wings together above the body. (Most moths are dull colored and fly at night and when at rest, hold their wings spread to the side). Butterflies have a complete life cycle and develop through four distinct stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult. The larva or caterpillar stage has chewing mouth-parts and eats plant foliage to grow.



Pollinators

Pollinators are animals that help plants reproduce (produce fruits and seeds) by carrying pollen from one flower to another. The wide variety of animals that visits flowers can be pollinators, including birds and other animals, but mostly insects. Pollination is necessary for proper development of many fruits and vegetables that surround the seed.