



Annuals for Attracting Butterflies

Butterflies are most active on balmy days and prefer a sunny spot. On windy days they prefer a sheltered area. Female butterflies are particular about where they lay their eggs. Some will lay the eggs on one of just a few species of plants which are the best food for the caterpillars.

--Choose plants that provide food for the caterpillars as well as those flowers that are good nectar sources for the adults.

--Adult butterflies will find it easier to locate larger groups of plants if they are planted in groups rather than spread across your garden.

--Place the caterpillar-food plants where you won't mind damaged foliage. Use masses of the same type of plant, and tuck it away from the main viewing area.

--Provide sun, shade, water and protection from the wind. Different areas of the garden can be used for these diverse needs.

--Pesticides kill butterflies and caterpillars, so don't poison your garden against one kind of insect because you will also kill or damage the butterflies you will be attracting.

Annuals that provide a food source for butterflies include:

- Cosmos
- Nasturtiums
- Petunias
- Scabiosa
- Sunflowers
- Verbena
- Zinnias
- Phlox

Favorite larval host plants include:

- Aster
- Oxalis
- Marigold

- Parsley
- Snapdragon

Plants in the cabbage family are favorite larval host plants of cabbage butterflies.