

Butterflies! In Living Color

Sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets

At the Milwaukee County Zoo (Wisconsin) May 28-Sept. 25, 2011

Butterfly Garden Basics

Tips from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee

Support butterflies here in Wisconsin by creating your own butterfly garden. Use flowers such as zinnias, butterfly weed, lantana, purple coneflower, and phlox. To begin, find a sunny area in your yard with some protection from the wind. Once you've found the right spot, include the following:

- **Nectar plants for butterflies.** Most Wisconsin butterflies feed on nectar from flowers. Try to group the same kind of flower together – this is more attractive to butterflies.
- **Caterpillar food plants.** Female butterflies will be more likely to come to your garden if you provide plants on which they can lay their eggs.
- **Small shallow water area.** Butterflies need moisture and will sometimes congregate around damp or wet areas. If you leave out pans of water for butterflies, clean these weekly so they don't become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- **Basking spot.** A rock or stone located in a spot that gets sun early in the day provides a good basking spot for butterflies. Butterflies need time to warm their bodies before they can begin to fly and search for food.

Some popular butterfly nectar plants include:

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| ✂ lantana | ✂ buddleia | ✂ purple | ✂ butterfly |
| ✂ verbena | (butterfly | coneflower | weed |
| ✂ zinnia | bush) | ✂ heliotrope | ✂ pentas |
| ✂ phlox | ✂ cosmos | | |

Popular caterpillar food plants include:

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| ➤ dill | ➤ aster | ➤ thistle |
| ➤ fennel | ➤ birch | ➤ milkweed |
| ➤ parsley | ➤ clover | |
| ➤ violets | ➤ marigolds | |

Other Butterfly Gardening Tips:

- **Pesticides are toxic to butterflies.** If you want a successful butterfly garden, use non-chemical methods instead of pesticides.
- **Butterfly gardens may also attract other nectar-loving creatures like hummingbirds, moths, honeybees and bumblebees.**
- **Butterflies are most active at midday, during the warmest hours of the day.**

Butterfly Web sites for more information

www.naba.org/ North American Butterfly Association

<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/> Big Sky Institute at Montana State University and National Biological Information Infrastructure Mountain Prairie Information Node