



Butterfly Garden

DIY Project

March 2021

Help your family or community do #GreenThings by participating planting your own butterfly garden.

Let's get started:

- Fill out an SWA Volunteer Application online at swa.org/Volunteer-Application
- Let's go Virtual and do #GreenThings
- Send in your DIY photos or submit your fully edited You Tube video to: [Linda Moreno, Volunteer Coordinator at: Lmoreno@swa.org \(Community Service Hours Available\).](mailto:LindaMoreno@swa.org)
- Together we can make a huge #GreenThings impact in our community!

Not only is this is a great time to make a #GreenThings impact on the environment you can also have some family fun with this outdoor **Butterfly Garden project**. You can modify this activity at home and always remember to follow social distancing guidelines.

What You Need:

- Butterfly-attracting flowers
- Hose, trowel and shovel
- Large, flat rocks
- Water source
- One or more tree or shrubs
- Camera or Cell Phone



Steps:

1. Select a site for your Butterfly Garden.
2. Remember the Rocks - add one or two large, flat rocks in the sun so butterflies have a place to bask and stay warm
3. Provide water - since butterflies cannot drink from open water, provide them with a "puddle" by filling a container, such as an old birdbath, with wet sand where they can perch and drink safely.

4. **Add the plants - Add nectar plants, including aster, black-eyed Susan, butterfly bush, butterfly weed, cosmos, ironweed, purple coneflower, sedum, and zinnia. Include food plants for the larvae, including dill, fennel, milkweed, and parsley.**
5. **Butterfly larvae are caterpillars. Learn to distinguish the larvae of butterflies you're trying to attract from pest species.**
6. **Minimize the use of pesticides to protect butterfly larvae and adults.**
7. **Make this a family supervised project, school project, or maybe you just want to plant a beautiful butterfly garden in your yard.**
8. **Record your progress and submit your video or pictures at the end of the month.**

How to Attract Butterflies

Butterflies prefer orange, red, yellow, pink or purple and they're drawn to flowers with flattened tops or to tubular-shaped flower clusters. It's best to grow your flowers in masses to help butterflies find them more easily.

Successful butterfly gardens should offer host plants for butterfly larvae (caterpillars) as well as nectar-producing plants for the adults.

Reflection Questions:

- **How many kinds of butterflies are there?**
- **How many kinds of butterflies can I find near where I live?**
- **What is the difference between a butterfly and a moth?**
- **What do butterflies eat?**
- **How long does a butterfly live?**
- **Do butterflies have a sense of smell?**

Stay tuned for our next Virtual Volunteer [#GreenThings](#) Opportunity!