



# Butterfly Gardening Guide

Have you ever wondered why you don't see many butterflies on Long Island?

Unfortunately, the continued development of open landscapes for housing, farms, and businesses as well as the widespread use of pesticides in homes and agriculture has caused butterfly populations to suffer. Butterflies and their caterpillars feed on many plants that are unwanted in today's cultivated landscapes. However, they need these plants to survive.

So, how can you help to encourage the growth of butterfly populations in your area?

**Simple. Create your own butterfly garden in your backyard!**

Butterfly gardens can be as simple as container gardens on a deck or as elaborate as your backyard will permit. In either case, there are some essential requirements necessary to create a functional butterfly habitat:

**1** Your habitat will need at least six hours of direct sunlight a day.

**2** Absolutely no pesticides should be used, either on the plants directly or in the soil.

**3** Most importantly, you will need specific plants:

- **Nectar Plants** – plants that produce flowers that adult butterflies will visit to drink nectar from.
- **Host Plants** – plants that adult butterflies will lay eggs on for their caterpillars to eat. Note that some butterflies are very specific to what plants they choose to lay eggs on. For example, monarchs only lay eggs on Milkweeds.
- Note that caterpillars eat a lot! If you plan to include host plants in your garden, be sure to plant more than one – caterpillars will eat them to the ground!

**4** Additionally, you may wish to include a basking area for the butterflies to sun themselves and a shaded mud-puddling area for the butterflies to land and drink water.



## Butterfly friendly plants

Plants that grow back each year are indicated with a "P" for perennial and those that must be replaced year after year are indicated with an "A" for annual. Nectar plants are indicated with an "N" and host plants are indicated with a "H".

Common Name	Botanical Name	Type
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja</i>	P/N
Lantana		A/N
Coneflower	<i>Echinacea</i>	P/N
Milkweed	<i>Asclepias</i>	P/N/H
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	P/N/H
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris</i>	P/N
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron</i>	A/N
Phlox		P/N
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i>	P/N
Gooseneck	<i>Lysimachia</i>	P/N
Sedum		P/N
Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium</i>	P/N
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda</i>	P/N
Verbena		A/N
New England Aster		P/N/H
Coreopsis		P/N
Zinnia		A/N
Cosmos		A/N
French Marigold	<i>Tagetes</i>	A/N/H
Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia</i>	P/N
Stoke's Aster	<i>Stokesia</i>	P/N
Catmint	<i>Nepeta</i>	P/N/H
Hyssop	<i>Agastache</i>	A/N
Crocsmia		P/N
Whiteweed	<i>Ageratum</i>	A/N
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i>	P/N
Starflower	<i>Pentas</i>	A/N
Porter Weed	<i>Stachytarpheta</i>	A/N
Mexican Flame Vine	<i>Pseudogynoxus confusus</i>	A/N
Heliotrope		A/N
Privet	<i>Ligustrum</i>	P/N
Mimosa		P/N
Powder-Puff Tree	<i>Calliandra</i>	A/N
Lilac		P/N/H
Golden Chain Tree	<i>Laburnum</i>	P/N
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	P/N

## Common Long Island Butterflies & their Host Plants

Plant these in your gardens that butterflies can lay eggs and check out their caterpillars.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Host Plants
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Milkweeds
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	Parsley, Dill, Fennel, Wild Carrots, Rue
Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	Wild Cherry, Magnolia
Spicebush Swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>	Sassafras, Spicebush
Pipeline Swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>	Dutchman's Pipevine
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Nasturtium, Wild Mustard
Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>	Clover
Viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	Willow
Great Spangled Fritillary	<i>Speyeria cybele</i>	Violet
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Mallow, Nettle
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Nettle
Buckeye	<i>Jononia coenia</i>	Plantain, Snapdragon
Question Mark	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	Hops, Hackberry
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Wild cherry, Elm
Red-Spotted Purple	<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	Wild Cherry
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	Dogbane, Aster
Grey Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	Pea, Mallow
Spring Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>	Wild Cherry, Ceanothus
Silver-Spotted Skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	Black Locust

