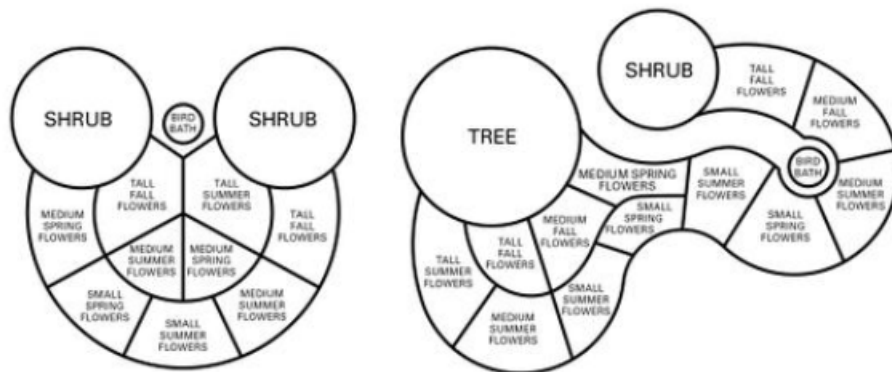


Butterfly Garden Design Tips



Figure 16. Use these designs as ideas for your butterfly landscape. You can attract butterflies from spring through fall by including plants with different blooming periods and caterpillar host plants. Taller plants should be clustered in the back.



*Illustrations by Liessa
Thomas Bowen*

Source - <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/butterflies-in-your-backyard>

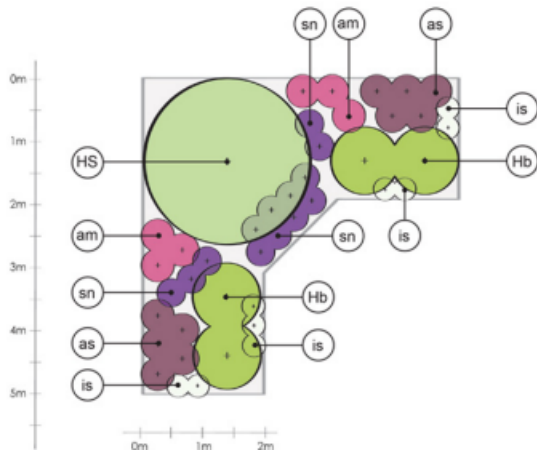
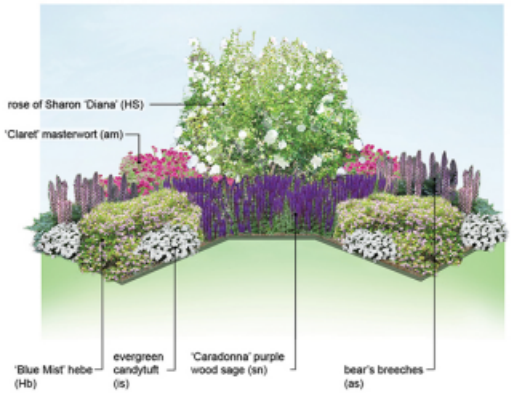
Plan your butterfly habitat before buying and putting in any plants (Figure 16). Decide how much space you want to dedicate to your butterfly habitat.

- Map the area in its current condition, then create a map for your projected habitat, making sure to provide for all the basic butterfly needs (sun, shelter, larval host plants, and adult nectar plants).
- Your butterfly habitat will function best in a sunny location. Most butterflies are active only in the sun, and many butterfly larval and nectar plants require sunny spots.
- Place taller plants and shrubs behind smaller plants and ground covers to maximize visibility and enjoyment of your design
- Concentrate flowering plants with similar blooming periods to allow butterflies easy access to seasonally abundant nectar sources without excessive movement and increased exposure to predators
- Many nectar and larval host plants grow tall. Taller plants and shrubs provide butterflies with shelter from wind and rain.

- Remember that many of your plants will grow larger and multiply each year as they mature. Be sure to leave room for each plant to grow and expand.
- Do not dig plants from the wild unless you are part of an organized plant rescue. Select nursery-grown native species or cultivate your own from nursery-bred native seeds. By using nursery stock from a reputable dealer, you will help preserve your local environment and the native plant population.
- Make “puddling” (ingestion of salts from watery or damp ground) easy for male butterflies by designing water puddles and wet, sandy areas into the habitat and by allowing animal feces to remain in the landscape.
- Provide a few large flat rocks for butterflies to perch on while basking in the sun.

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This garden bed design is a good choice for a location exposed to the elements, with full sun all day, and it doesn't need shelter from the wind. It can tolerate soil that stays fairly wet in the winter.



ID	PLANT NAME	ALTERNATIVE SELECTION	PLANT SPACING	QTY
HS	rose of Sharon 'Diana' (Hibiscus syriacus 'Diana') 👉 🌱 🌿	readily available	As Shown	1
as	bear's breeches (Acanthus spinosus) 👉 🌱	nettle leaved mullen (Verbascum chaixii) 👉 🌱	65 cm	10
sn	'Caradonna' purple wood sage (Salvia nemerosa 'Caradonna') 👉	'May Night' wood sage (Salvia nemerosa 'May Night') 👉 🌱 🌿	45 cm	13
Hb	'Blue Mist' hebe (Hebe 'Blue Mist') 👉	Patty's Purple' hebe (Hebe 'Patty's Purple')	100 cm	4
am	'Claret' masterwort (Astrantia major 'Claret') 👉	great masterwort (Astrantia major) 👉	35 cm	6
is	evergreen candytuft (Iberis sempervirens) 👉 🌱	mountain rockcress (Arabis alpina subsp. Caucasia) 🌱	35 cm	9

🌱 drought tolerant / 🍷 food / 🌱 native / 🐝 pollinator / 💧 wet tolerant / 🐾 wildlife

Plant Maintenance

To properly maintain your garden, and for best results:

- Prepare the garden bed with a good quality soil. There should be a minimum soil depths of 30 cm for perennials, 45 cm for shrubs and 60 cm for trees.
- Every spring, apply 5 cm of well-rotted compost or manure annually in the spring (try not to pile it up around woody stems).
- Remove weeds as required, and inspect for pests and disease every week or two in the spring and summer.
- Ensure plants receive a minimum of 5 cm of water weekly during the spring and summer.
- Remove and compost 'spent' blooms and leaves in the fall.
- Prune only to remove misplaced or damaged stems as needed during the summer. The plants suggested here should not require pruning to reduce size.