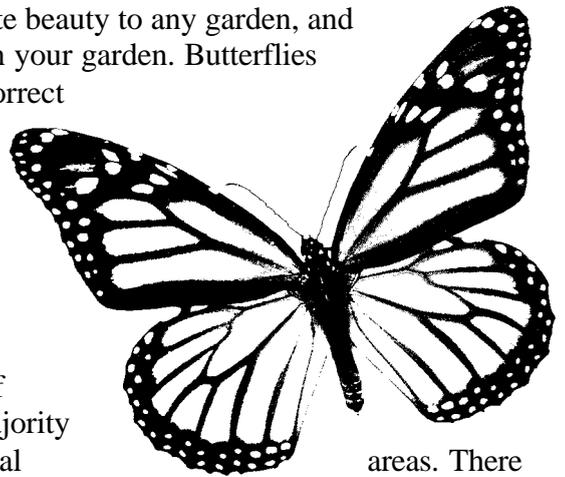


# Butterfly Gardening

## BUTTERFLIES

**Butterflies** add interest and delicate beauty to any garden, and they can become a familiar sight in your garden. Butterflies depend on the availability of the correct food-plants for their caterpillars and nectar-rich flowering plants for the adult butterflies. Butterfly gardening aims to create habitats that will encourage butterflies to live and breed in your garden.



Australia has nearly 400 species of native butterflies, with the vast majority occurring in tropical and subtropical areas. There are about 24 species of butterflies that are commonly seen in the Melbourne area, with over half of these still to be found in densely-populated areas such as the inner suburbs. In our temperate climate butterflies are active only on warm days in spring, summer and autumn.

Butterflies are likely to visit your garden, and perhaps even stay and breed if you maintain some wild or informal areas. An intensely-maintained, manicured garden is inhospitable to wildlife because it is constantly being mowed, pruned and tidied and it lacks undisturbed wild areas. Butterfly gardening means setting aside a part of your garden for its wildlife value. It need not look unsightly or messy; indeed these relatively undisturbed areas can be extremely attractive.

## NECTAR OR FLOWERING PLANTS

Adult butterflies on the nectar from flowering plants. A Butterfly Garden must therefore have a good supply and range of these plants. To ensure you have food available throughout the spring, summer and autumn, you'll need to choose several plant species that flower at different times of the year. It is important that nectar plants are planted in a protected, yet sunny position in the garden, as butterflies rarely visit dark, shady places while foraging.

A wide range of flowering plants can be selected to attract butterflies. Many of the best nectar plants for our local butterflies are not local or native plants, so a Butterfly Garden can be created in virtually any style.

Excellent flowering plants for butterflies include:

- Butterfly Bush**, *Buddleia davidii*
- Everlasting Daisy**, *Bracteantha bracteata*
- Ageratum**, *Ageratum houstonianum*
- Cut-leaf Daisy**, *Brachyscome multifida*
- Sweet Bursaria**, *Bursaria spinosa*

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**Thryptomene**, *Thryptomene saxicola*

**Veronica**, *Hebe speciosa*

**Rice flowers**, *Pimelea spp.*

**Cherry Pie**, *Heliotropium arborescens*

**Daisy bushes**, *Olearia spp.*

## CATERPILLAR (LARVA) FOOD-PLANTS

For butterflies to stay and breed in your garden you will need to provide the correct caterpillar food-plants. Many caterpillars are very specific in their food-plant requirements and female adults will lay their eggs only on these plants. It is necessary to accept the fact, of course, that these plants will be subject to a certain amount of leaf chewing and damage, and obviously the use of garden chemicals must be avoided.

## BUTTERFLIES OF THE MELBOURNE AREA AND THEIR FOOD-PLANTS

<b>Australian Admiral</b>	Stinging nettles	<i>Urtica spp.</i>
<b>Painted Lady</b>	Paper daisies	<i>Helichrysum spp.</i>
<b>Bright Copper</b>	Sweet Bursaria	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
<b>Bright-eyed Brown</b>	Tall Sedge	<i>Carex appressa</i>
<b>Cabbage White</b>	Cabbages	<i>Brassica spp.</i>
<b>Caper White</b>	Capers	<i>Capparis spp.</i>
<b>Common Grass Blue</b>	Clover	<i>Trifolium spp.</i>
<b>Common Imperial Blue</b>	Wattles	<i>Acacia spp.</i>
<b>Common Dusky Blue</b>	Dodder laurels	<i>Cassytha spp.</i>
<b>Common Brown</b>	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
	Tussock grasses	<i>Poa spp.</i>
<b>Dark Purple Azure</b>	Mistletoes	<i>Muellerina spp.</i>
<b>Dingy Swallowtail</b>	Lemon trees	<i>Citrus spp.</i>
<b>Eastern Ringed Xenica</b>	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
	Tussock grasses	<i>Poa spp.</i>
<b>Eliena Skipper</b>	Mat rushes	<i>Lomandra spp.</i>
<b>Fiery Jewel</b>	Native currents	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
	Wattles	<i>Acacia spp.</i>
<b>Imperial White</b>	Mistletoes	<i>Amyema spp.</i>
		<i>Muellerina spp.</i>
<b>Klug's Xenica</b>	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
	Tussock grasses	<i>Poa spp.</i>
<b>Lesser Wanderer</b>	Swan Plant	<i>Asclepias fruticosa</i>
<b>Macleay's Swallowtail</b>	Mountain Pepper	<i>Tasmannia lanceolata</i>
<b>Meadow Argus</b>	Hop bushes	<i>Goodenia spp.</i>
	Fan Flower	<i>Scaevola aemula</i>
<b>Orchard Butterfly</b>	Lemon trees	<i>Citrus spp.</i>
<b>Sword-grass Brown</b>	Sword grasses	<i>Gahnia spp.</i>
<b>Symmomous Skipper</b>	Mat Rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>

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<b>Tailed Emperor</b>	Wattles	<i>Acacia spp.</i>
<b>Wanderer</b>	Swan Plant	<i>Asclepias fruticosa</i>
<b>White Grass Dart</b>	Tussock grasses	<i>Poa spp.</i>
	Wallaby grasses	<i>Danthonia spp.</i>
<b>Wood White</b>	Mistletoe	<i>Amyema spp.</i>
		<i>Muellerina spp.</i>

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