

Top 5 Butterfly Attracting Butterflies

Butterflies are an important part of our world. They pollinate our food, play an integral role in the food chain, and showcase beauty in nature. And we can watch these beautiful creatures in our own backyards! Planting flowers and perennials that butterflies enjoy can attract them to our yards so we can enjoy them! It's a win-win!

Here are the **Top 5 Perennials for Attracting Butterflies.**

5. Agastache (Hyssop)



Agastache is essential to a pollinator friendly garden. Although deer and rabbits aren't fans, hummingbirds and butterflies sure are! They offer showy, fragrant flowers from June through September. Hyssop has a high tolerance for drought and heat, making it an ideal perennial for for all types of gardeners!

4. Monarda (Bee Balm)

Bee Balm is an old-fashioned perennial favorite. It is deer resistant, easy to grow, and attracts pollinators such as butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. Most varieties reach between 1 and 3 feet high, so they are perfect for squeezing into small spaces in your garden. Bee Balm flowers in mid to late summer, ranging in shades of pinks, reds, purples, and whites. Cool looking flowers!



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3. Echinacea (Coneflower)



Native Coneflowers provide us with some of our most beautiful garden flowers. They are an invaluable source of seeds for song birds and nectar for butterflies and bees. Their roots and leaves are also used as herbs to enhance our immune systems. The most popular variety is Echinacea purpurea - the Purple Coneflower. It grows about 2 feet tall and wide and flowers from midsummer to fall. Makes a great cut flower, is drought tolerant, and native to the U.S. One of the finest native perennials for today's landscape!

2. Veronica (Speedwell)

Planting Speedwell in the garden is a great way to enjoy long-lasting blooms throughout the summer. They provide awesome flowers from June through August; Royal Candles is an especially outstanding variety with long violet-blue blooms standing tall over the foliage all summer. Other varieties of Speedwell bloom either pink or white. Veronica is tough, drought tolerant, and a major attraction for butterflies!



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1. Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)

Not much will attract butterflies more than the Butterfly Weed plant. First and most important, it's not a weed! Rather, it is a hardy, native perennial growing 1-2 feet tall and wide. It blooms bright orange flowers all throughout summer. The flowers are a nectar source for many butterflies and leaves are a food source for monarch butterfly larvae (caterpillars). Deadheading the flowers will stimulate another bloom cycle about a month after the first one. Butterfly Weed is a true winner for butterflies!

