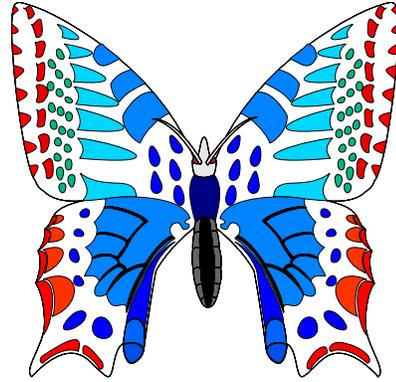


BUTTERFLY HABITAT INFORMATION

BUTTERFLIES



* The life cycle of the butterfly is:

- Stage 1: Egg or ovum
- Stage 2: Larva or caterpillar
- Stage 3: Pupa or chrysalis
- Stage 4: Adult or imago

- * The adult female lays her eggs on or near the larval host plant. The eggs are left unattended and hatch within a few days. The eggs are vulnerable to attacks from various parasitic wasps.
- * Upon hatching, many young larva will eat all or part of its eggshell passing vital nutrients from mother to offspring. Caterpillars are voracious eaters (some start eating immediately and others wait until spring to do so) . They are born to chew and the leaf of the host plant is their food of choice.
- * As the larva grows, it sheds its skin a number of times (molting). The number of molts varies by species, with most species in the United States averaging five. Each stage in between molts is called an instar. The time spent in the larval stage varies by species (average is 3-4 weeks)
- * At the end of the last instar, the caterpillar will seek a sheltered place to pupate or form a chrysalis. Pupae come in various shapes, sizes and colors. For several days or months it will remain in this form, totally immobile and helpless. Often, the pupae are subject to predation from birds, insects, wasps, etc.
- * When the adult is fully formed, the chrysalis skin splits apart, permitting the adult to crawl out. The adult butterfly is ready to carry out its main role - reproduction in order to start the life cycle all over again.
- * The average life span of an adult butterfly ranges from a week to 6-8 months, depending on the species.



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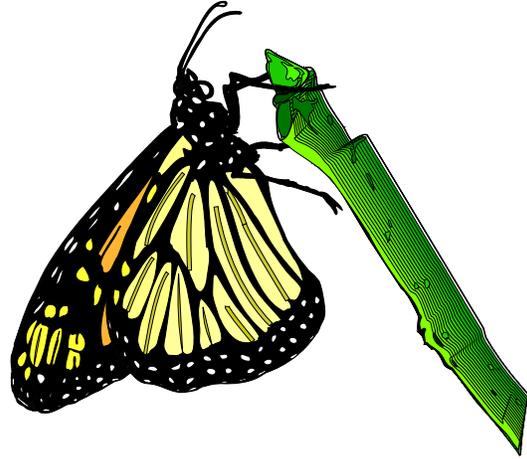
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BUTTERFLIES - continued

Design Tips:

- * Butterfly gardens need to include both nectar plants and larval food plants.
- * Adult butterflies will hang around if you feed and house their caterpillars.
- * Do not get overly attached to larval host plants. They will be eaten.
- * Provide continuous and overlapping flowering nectar sources during the entire growing season.
- * Locate a major portion of the garden in a sunny, protected area. Butterflies need sun and protection from high winds.
- * Try to use large masses of color. According to some experts, butterflies are first attracted flowers by color, and a large group is easier to spot.
- * Provide shelter from wind, rain and other elements as well as a place for them to roost at night. Plant trees and shrubs for this purpose.
- * Try to overcome your compulsion for extreme neatness and order. Try to leave thick undergrowth under trees or leave some dead and hollow stumps. These areas are excellent refuges for butterflies on cold or stormy days.
- * Provide damp areas or shallow puddles. Many butterflies congregate in these areas to obtain moisture and nutrients.
- * If possible, use drip irrigation. Overhead spray irrigation washes nectar out of flowers.
- * Do not use pesticides in the butterfly garden.



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