



THE LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS

Your design and installation team



Attracting Butterflies and Hummingbirds

When you start to think about attracting birds, butterflies and other creatures into your yard, you will need to make sure you have the proper plants and elements needed to support them.

The basic elements that you will need to look at are:

- **Nectar-producing flowers:** these are perennials and wildflowers native to your area.
- **Shelter:** bird and butterfly houses, trees with natural shelter.
- **Water:** a birdbath or even a simple dish of water will do.
- **Rocks of various sizes:** these are high-and-dry perches.
- **Cover:** low branching bushes and trees, or tall grasses.

You may want to consider incorporating a sitting area so that you will be able to enjoy all the activity that will be happening in your yard.

Plants that will attract Butterflies into your yard:

Aster – fall blooming perennial
Black-eyed Susan – late summer blooming perennial
Butterfly Weed –
Butterfly Bush – early summer blooming deciduous shrub
Coreopsis – summer blooming perennial
Cosmos – summer blooming annual
Daylilies – early summer blooming perennial
Goldenrod –
Hibiscus – late summer blooming deciduous shrub
Lantana – summer blooming half-hardy annual, small tree
Lavender – early summer blooming perennial
Lilac – late spring blooming small tree
Marigold – summer blooming annual
Phlox – summer blooming perennial and annual
Pink Azalea – spring blooming shrub
Purple Coneflower – late summer blooming perennial
Redbud – late spring blooming deciduous tree
Rosemary – late spring blooming perennial herb
Verbena – summer blooming annual and perennial
Zinnia – summer blooming annual

Attracting Butterflies:

Butterflies do most of their eating when they are caterpillars. The plants that the caterpillars eat are called host plants, which include a few garden flowers but mostly weeds and wildflowers. The adult butterflies consume flower nectar from a large range of flowers, which they sip through a long curving tongue-like organ called a proboscis. The flower shape is more important to the butterfly than the flower color. Butterflies will flock to plants with short tubular flowers such as butterfly bush and butterfly weed. They will also be attracted to flat, daisy-shaped flowers. Double blossoms crowded with petals make it hard for the butterflies to feed.

To keep butterflies around it is best to plant flowers that will be blooming well into the fall. The butterfly populations are highest in the late summer, but they will stay if you have flowers such as asters, chrysanthemums, sedum and goldenrod blooming into the late summer and fall.

Always to remember it is best to plant in bunches, as butterflies are more likely to visit a group than a single plant.

If you wish to attract butterflies when your bushes and perennials are young and not showing much color, then you may want to try this. Set out a dish or ripe, smashed fruit, molasses, beer or fruit juice in the yard. You can also soak a dishcloth in this mixture and then hang it out in the trees.

Good Plants for Hummingbirds:

Cardinal flower
Honeysuckle
Hosta
Bee Balm
Sage
Trumpet Vine
Penstemon
Zinnia
Daylilies
Salvia
Red-hot Pokers
Morning Glory Vine