

Gardening for Butterflies Field Class

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A. Introduction

1. What Makes a Butterfly Garden

B. A Little Butterfly Biology

1. The butterfly life cycle
2. Butterfly anatomy
3. Wing scales and coloration

C. Where Butterflies Fit Taxonomically

D. Butterfly or Moth? (Useful Differences, but not Absolute Ones)

E. The Most Important Concept: Host Plants

1. What is a host plant
2. Why are caterpillars so picky
3. Specialists and Generalists
4. How do females find and recognize host plants?

F. Nectar Plants vs. Host Plants

G. Things Butterflies Need Besides Flowers

1. Sun and shelter
2. Water and minerals
3. Seasonal continuity of resources
4. Overwintering habitat (for those that overwinter)

H. How Gardening Practices Affect Butterflies

1. Don't clean up the habitat
2. Pesticides

I. Observing Butterflies in the Field

1. Observing adult butterflies and behavior
 - a. Nectaring
 - b. Basking
 - c. Patrolling/territorial behavior
 - d. Courtship
 - e. Mating
 - f. Oviposition
 - g. Puddling
2. Finding butterfly life stages
3. Recognizing feeding damage, frass, and leaf shelters