BUTTERFLY GARDENS in the Bay Area

**Where?**
A "pocket habitat" butterfly garden can be created in any space, even in a small one, where sun, shelter from the wind, and shallow sources of water are available.

**Why?**
The open spaces in the Bay Area are disappearing with more and more human development. Consequently, the wildlife which depends on this land to survive is also disappearing. This is especially true for butterflies and other insects which fall prey to chemical pesticide use, and the invasion of foreign plant and animal species. By creating a butterfly garden you will be working to offset this devastation.

**When?**
October is planting season in our Mediterranean climate to take advantage of winter rains, but with a little extra effort, any time of year will work.

**How?**

**Step 1: Pick a Spot**
Creating a pocket habitat for butterflies can be anything from a single container to your entire backyard. You may want to do a little research on what plants will grow well in your space. Light, water, and soil are key factors in having success with any plant. Visit pollinator.org or calscape.org for picking the right plant for your place.

**Step 2: Plant Nectar Plants**
Many native plants attract a variety of butterflies through color and scent. Plant these plants in clusters and they will attract adult butterflies. See the list on the back for some ideas.

**Step 3: Plant Larval Host Plants**
Many butterflies will only use a specific native plant to host their young. Planting larval host plants invite butterflies to lay their eggs and allow their larvae (caterpillars) to feed and grow.

**Step 4: Provide Shelter, Sun, and Water**
Female butterflies like sheltered, sunny spots for nectaring and laying eggs. Plant tall flowers, leave woodpiles out, or add a trellis for wind protection. Butterflies love to warm their wings for energy, so add flat rocks or bricks. Water is important to both sexes, but males like to "puddle" or drink from mud or wet sand. Slant a shallow pan filled with an inch of mud and water so that some of the mud is exposed to air. Place perching rocks in the water and mud.
What to Expect?
Nothing in nature happens in a hurry, so expect to spend some time nurturing your garden and take some quiet moments to observe. Make a notebook of your flying and crawling visitors. Need help identifying your garden allies? Take a photo and upload it to iNaturalist.org or the app.

Resources*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollinator.org</th>
<th>Attracting Native Pollinators, The Xerces Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iNaturalist.org</td>
<td>California Native Plants for the Garden, Carol Bornstein, David Fross, &amp; Bart O’Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calscape.org</td>
<td>Bringing Nature Home, Douglas W. Tallany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

California Native Plants for Butterflies

Shrubs & Subshrubs
- Bladderpod, *Peritoma arborea*
- Buckwheat, *Eriogonum spp.*
- Bush Sunflower, *Encelia californica*
- California Lilac, *Ceanothus spp.*
- Chamise, *Adenostoma fasciculatum*
- Coffeeberry, *Rhamnus californica*
- Coyote Bush, *Baccharis pilularis*
- Elderberry, *Sambucus mexicana*
- Mallow, *Malva spp.*
- Seaside Daisy, *Erigeron glaucus*
- Toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*
- Willow, *Salix spp.*

Perennials
- California Aster, *Symphyotrichum chilense*
- Checkerbloom, *Sidalcea spp.*
- Coyote Mint, *Monardella villosa*
- Currant, *Ribes spp.*
- Lupine, *Lupinus spp.*
- Matilija Poppy, *Romneya coulteri*
- Narrow Leaf Milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*
- Native Bunch Grass, *Poaceae spp.*
- Sage, *Salvia spp.*
- Showy Milkweed, *Asclepias speciosa*
- Sticky Monkeyflower, *Diplacus aurantiacus*
- Strawberry, *Fragaria spp.*
- Verbena de la Mina, *Verbena lilacina*
- Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*

Trees
- Big Leaf Maple, *Acer macrofolium*
- California Buckeye, *Aesculus californica*
- Cherry, *Prunus spp.*
- Oak, *Quercus spp.*

Vines
- California Pipevine, *Aristolochia californica*

*Sources used to create this guide and additional resources for more information.

* larval host plants

Butterflies will also visit most native annual wildflowers