

INVITE BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN

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- ⊕ Design your garden around the **sun** and **wind**: maximize sunny areas and minimize the impact of the wind
- ⊕ Plant for the **caterpillars** -- recognize they are "eating machines" -- and because many of our northern butterfly species have trees and shrubs as their caterpillar hosts, you may want to place your garden to take advantage of these nearby hosts
- ⊕ Plant adult nectar sources with these points in mind:
 - oo Different generations of butterflies are on the wing from **early** spring until the frosts of fall ... so a long season of blooms is an important factor
 - oo **Nectar** content of flowers may be more important than any **color** preferences butterflies may have -- many "horticultural" varieties do not produce enough nectar to entice butterflies
 - oo **Caution**: many of the area's most popular "natural" nectar sources along our roadways are alien exotics (the only true "weeds"), such as Spotted Knapweed, and should not be planted in your garden
 - oo Watch **how** butterflies are using the flowers in your garden because some of the most popular "butterfly flowers" you may read or hear about don't always work in everyone's garden -- see what does in yours ... and **which** butterflies are found in your area
- ⊕ Don't use any pesticides -- let the diversity of nature do its thing
- ⊕ For both caterpillars and adult butterflies, plant as generously as possible of each type of plant you put in your garden
- ⊕ Accomodate what adult butterflies "do" in your gardening plans -- i.e. basking in sun, nectaring, mating, laying eggs ... and sometimes sipping water, mud, sap and even rotting fruit
- ⊕ Make room for a **comfortable** place to sit and watch butterflies eat, court and lay eggs in your garden -- an up-to-date butterfly **guide** (such as recommended on other side of this sheet) and close-focusing (less than 8 feet) **binoculars** will aid your enjoyment of these winged wonders
- ⊕ Even though you are planting for butterflies, your efforts will benefit many other living things ... as well as providing many hours of pure enjoyment and nature education for adults and children alike
- ⊕ Preferred nectar sources for northern Minnesota gardens:

milkweeds	cosmos	Black-eyed Susan
common yarrow	Joe-Pye weed	zinnias
asters	sunflowers	wild bergamot/bee balm/monarda
daisies	blazing stars/	mints
purple coneflower	gayfeathers	buddleia/butterfly bush (not hardy in far north)