

CREATING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN

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CREATING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN in New Mexico

Step 1: Pick a 3 to 5 foot area, mostly sunny, (more than a half day of sunshine) that is at least partially protected, year round, from most of the elements of weather.

Step 2: After April 20th (the last day of know frost on record in New Mexico), turn the soil of the area. Amend the soil of the new garden area, with compost. If your soil has a lot of clay, also add some sand to it.

Step 3: Plant flowers, herbs and shrubs that attract the butterflies in NM. These would include but, are not limited to: astilbe (shade), companula (sun), Butterfly bush (sun/shade), Daylilies (sun), Caryopteris (sun) Hollyhocks (sun/shade), Echinacea (sun), Monarda (sun), Mallow (sun), phlox (sun), milkweed (sun), Queen Anne's lace (sun), violets (sun/shade), Liatris (sun), Rudbeckia (sun), parsley (sun), dill (sun), fennel (sun), Asters (sun), Coreopsis (sun), Zinnias (sun), Lantana (sun), Golden Rod (sun), Sedum (shade/sun), Cat Mint(sun/shade), Vitex (sun), Salvia (sun), Verbena (sun/shade).

Step 4: Water 2-3 times per week during the growing season. Consider mulching around your plants with an organic material.

Step 5: Provide the butterflies a place to drink from. Consider a sturdy plant saucer, that you dig down the level of the soil to fit is in level with the soil surface. You might place rocks around the edge to give the butterflies a place to rest and sun themselves.

Step 6: Consider creating a butterfly feeder. Hanging or rising above the ground in a simple plant saucer, stabilize it and fill with fruit to provide an additional food source for your butterflies.

Step 7: Sit back and watch all the beautiful butterflies flutter all around in the garden created just for them.

DO NOT USE pesticides and insecticides!
They are DEADLY to butterflies!

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