

Butterfly Gardens



Butterflies are from a large order of insects also comprising moths, and skippers that as adults have four broad or lanceolate wings usually covered with overlapping and often brightly coloured scales and that as larvae are caterpillars. The UK has the world's most comprehensive and long running data set on the study of butterflies. As a species they provide a great deal of insight into the state of the nation's biodiversity as a whole.

They are beautiful creatures that are sadly having a difficult time. The State of Britain's Butterflies report, published by Butterfly Conservation, shows the serious, long-term and ongoing decline of UK butterflies, with 70% of species declining in occurrence (based on the BNM distribution data) and 57% declining in abundance (based on the UKBMS) since 1976.

Butterflies are very sensitive to changes in the weather and environment. They need direct sun to warm them up and get them going and enjoy basking in the sun. They will not visit flowers in the shade.

You can help butterflies by planting plants that provide food for caterpillars, nectar for adults and shelter for hibernating adults or caterpillars.

Nectar-rich wildflowers for butterflies

Lady's bedstraw
Knapweed
Betony
Lady's smock
Bird's foot trefoil
Common mallow
Bluebell
Corn marigold
Bugle
Oxlip
Meadow buttercup
Purple loosestrife
Red campion
Ragged robin
Red clover
St John's wort
Wild primrose
Field scabious
Cowslip
Teasel
Ox-eye daisy
Thrift
Dog violet
Wild thyme
Feverfew
Common toadflax
Harebell
Viper's bugloss
Herb-robert
Yarrow

Nectar-rich garden plants for butterflies

Spring flowering
Alyssum
Polyanthus
Cowslip
Grape hyacinth
Forget-me-not
Honesty
Primrose.

Summer flowering

Hyssop
Wallflower
Lavender
Lady's smock,
Marigolds
Field scabious,
Verbena
Thyme
Marjoram
Goldenrod
Buddleia

Autumn flowering

Lavender
Fuchsia
Ice plant
Russian sage
Michaelmas daisies
Ivy

Plants for breeding butterflies; 'species' plants preferred

Peacock: flower, charlock, common nettle
Small tortoiseshell: common nettle
Comma: common nettle
Red admiral: common nettle
Large skipper: cock's foot, false brome
Small skipper: yorkshire fog
Dingy skipper: common bird's foot trefoil
Large white: cabbage family, nasturtium, wild mignonette
Small white: cabbage family, nasturtium, hedge mustard, garlic mustard
Green-veined white: cabbage family, cuckoo

Orange tip: cuckoo flower, garlic mustard
Small copper: common sorrel, sheep's sorrel
Common blue: common bird's foot trefoil
Painted lady: thistles, common nettle
Wall: false brome, cock's foot, yorkshire fog, wavy hair grass
Meadow brown: fescue species, meadow-grass, bents
Ringlet: cock's foot, false brome, tufted hair-grass, common couch

Gardening with the cabbage white...

The cabbage white butterfly can be a test of evening the most wildlife-friendly gardener's patience! This much maligned butterfly lays its eggs on the leaves of brassica plants and the larvae start chomping as they hatch!

Covering your cabbages with netting - ensuring the netting is well clear of the plants is advisable but there are also a couple of other tricks. Work with nature and encourage other insects which predate the larvae into your patch. Plant lots of flowers and blooming herbs around your

vegetable bed to provide a strong supply of nectar for beneficial insects, such as garden wasps, parasitic wasps and insect eating birds. You can also try planting nasturtiums close by as the cabbage white will often favour these to lay their eggs onto.

Butterfly detective



Peacock



Brimstone



Comma



Orange-tip



Green-veined white



Holly blue



Small tortoiseshell



Painted lady



Red admiral



Gatekeeper

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Credits: Peacock, comma, painted lady and red admiral by Richard Burkmar / Brimstone by Neil Philips / Orange-tip by Les Binns / Green-veined white by Mike Breedon / Holly blue by Philip Precey / Small tortoiseshell by Neil Aldridge / Gatekeeper by David Longshaw

Our vision is for a Herefordshire richer and more diverse in wildlife that is valued, and cared for, by its people to the benefit of all.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is a driving force for nature conservation in the county with over 5,000 members from across Herefordshire and beyond.

We're part of a national network of Wildlife Trusts. We campaign to protect wildlife and habitats both locally and nationally.

Together with our members and volunteers we work tirelessly to protect wildlife across Herefordshire, both on our 55 nature reserves and in partnership with other landowners.



www.herefordshirewt.org

Herefordshire
Wildlife Trust



Get Involved!

Join Today! Becoming a member is a great way to help your local wildlife.

Volunteer: we are always looking for people to join our work parties carrying out practical management on our reserves - but we have other opportunities in our offices and at events too.

Contact us:
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