

Make Your Own Butterfly Garden

Outdoor Activity

You will need:

- A variety of plants such as forget-me-not, marjoram, oxeye daisies, thyme, primrose, lavender, honeysuckle, catmint, verbena
- Compost
- Small area for the garden or window box
- Trowels/Spades
- Watering can
- Butterfly Checklist
- Butterfly Cut-Outs



The Activity

1. Choose an area outdoors that is a warm, sunny, sheltered spot: perfect for nectar-rich plants.
2. Choose different plants to attract a wider variety of butterfly species.
3. Plant the same types of plant together in blocks.
4. You will need to plant flowers that will flower all through the butterfly season. Spring flowers, like primrose and forget-me-not, are vital for butterflies coming out of hibernation. Autumn flowers, like verbena, help butterflies build up their reserve over the winter.
5. Once you have decided on the flowers and their position in the garden, turn the soil/compost over and plant the flowers or seeds.
6. Make some butterfly labels using the Butterfly Cut-Outs to mark where you have planted each flower. Colour the butterflies in and laminate them to make them last longer.
7. If you haven't got a space in your outdoor area, a window box will work just as well.
8. Water the flowers after you have planted them.
9. To prolong the flowering of the plants, deadhead them, mix in organic compost and water them regularly.
10. Don't use insecticides and pesticides as these will kill butterflies, as well as other insects.
11. Observe the butterfly garden over time and see how many different species are attracted to it. Use the Butterfly checklist to see what some of the butterflies are called.
12. Do any other insects visit the garden?