



ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER POLLINATING INSECTS TO YOUR GARDEN

It is a pleasure to see brightly coloured butterflies feeding on garden flowers during the summer. Tortoiseshells, red admirals and peacock butterflies are attracted to buddleia bushes and bedding annuals alike, and if your garden is near chalk or limestone areas you may be visited by chalk blues and yellow brimstone butterflies.

However, many of these butterflies will probably be only visitors to the formal garden, there briefly to drink nectar before undertaking the serious business of seeking the right native food plants on which to lay their eggs. British butterflies have evolved over millions of years in concert with the British wild flora. They need to find the right plant on which to lay their eggs because only certain species of plant are suitable for the growth of the caterpillars which eventually hatch into butterflies. Thus each species of butterfly needs the individual type of plant on which its caterpillars can grow. Because most modern garden flowers have been bred from non-British species, they may have flowers with nectar suitable for attracting the adult butterfly, but are unsuitable for raising its brood of caterpillars. Thus without a supply of the correct wild plants on which butterflies' caterpillars can grow your garden is of limited value to butterfly conservation.

Thus your garden can be of much greater conservation value if it contains a selection of native British wildflowers.

The table below shows some common species of butterfly and the plants they need to feed their caterpillars.

BUTTERFLY LARVA FOOD PLANTS

BUTTERFLY	FOOD PLANT	BOTANICAL NAME
BRIMSTONE	(BUCKTHORN)	<i>(Rhamnus catharticus)</i>
CHALKHILL BLUE	HORSESHOE VETCH, BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL	<i>Hippocrepis comosa,</i> <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
COMMA	(STINGING NETTLE) (HOP)	<i>(Urtica dioica), Humulus lupulus</i>
COMMON BLUE	BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL, (RESTHARROW)	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> <i>(Ononis spp.)</i>
DINGY SKIPPER	BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL CINQUEFOIL	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> <i>Potentilla spp.</i>
GATEKEEPER (HEDGE BROWN)	GRASSES	<i>Festuca, Dactylis, pOA</i>
GREEN-VEINED WHITE	CUCKOO FLOWER	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
SKIPPER, LARGE, CHEQUERED	COCKSFOOT, BROMES	<i>Dactylis glomerata, Bromus spp.</i>
MARbled WHITE	COCKSFOOT, FESCUES	<i>Festuca spp., Dactylis glomerata</i>
MEADOW BROWN	GRASSES	<i>Festuca, Dactylis glomerata</i>
ORANGE TIP	GARLIC MUSTARD	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
PAINTED LADY	(THISTLE), MALLOW, (BURDOCK)	<i>(Cirsium), Malva, (Arctium)</i>
PEACOCK	(STINGING NETTLE)	<i>(Urtica dioica)</i>
PEARL-BORDERED FRITILARY	DOG VIOLET, WILD PANSY	<i>Viola riviniana, Viola tricolor</i>
RED ADMIRAL	(STINGING NETTLE)	<i>(Urtica dioica)</i>

RINGLET	COCKSFOOT, MEADOW GRASS	<i>Dactylis glomerata, Poa spp.</i>
SILVER SPOTTED SKIPPER	(HAIRGRASS)	<i>(Deschampsia caespitosa)</i>
SILVER STUDDED BLUE	BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
SMALL BLUE	KIDNEY VETCH	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>
SMALL COPPER	(DOCK) AND SORREL	<i>Rumex spp.</i>
SMALL SKIPPER	YORKSHIRE FOG	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
SMALL TORTOISESHELL	(STINGING NETTLE)	<i>(Urtica dioica)</i>
BATH WHITE	HEDGE MUSTARD	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>
CLOUDED YELLOW	BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL, CLOVER	<i>Lotus corniculatus, Trifolium</i>
SPECKLED WOOD	GRASSES	<i>Dactylis, Festuca, Bromus</i>
GLANVILLE FRITILLARY	PLANTAINS	<i>Plantago spp.</i>
GREEN HAIRSTREAK	BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
HEATH FRITILLARY	PLANTAIN, FOXGLOVE	<i>Plantago spp. Digitalis purpurea</i>
MARSH FRITILLARY	SCABIOUS, PLANTAINS	<i>Centaurea spp. Plantago spp.</i>
SMALL HEATH	FESCUE, MEADOW GRASS	<i>Festuca spp, Poa spp.</i>

Note: In this table, the plants in brackets are large, 'weedy' and not suitable for every garden, so they are included only in our SPECIAL BUTTERFLY AND MOTH FOODPLANT MIX.

Many species of British moths have larvae which feed on trees so that the best way to support them is to conserve the oaks, birches poplars willows and fruit trees in your neighbourhood. However, you can directly help the species in the table below which have caterpillars which feed on perennial weeds and wild flowers.

MOTH LARVA FOOD PLANTS

MOTH	FOOD PLANT	BOTANICAL NAME
CONVOLVULUS HAWK MOTH	(HEDGE BINDWEED)	<i>(Calystegia sepium)</i>
BEDSTRAW HAWK MOTH	LADIES BEDSTRAW	<i>Galium verum</i>
STRIPED HAWK MOTH	LADIES BEDSTRAW, (DOCK)	<i>Galium verum, (Rumex spp.)</i>
ELEPHANT HAWK MOTH	(WILLOW HERB), EVENING-PRIMROSE	<i>(Epilobium spp). Oenothera</i>
SMALL ELEPHANT HAWK	BEDSTRAW	<i>Galium verum, G. mollugo</i>
BEE HAWK MOTH	(HONEYSUCKLE)	<i>(Lonicera periclimenum)</i>
HUMMINGBIRD HAWK MOTH	BEDSTRAW	<i>Galium verum</i>
CLOUDED BUFF MOTH	DANDELION, PLANTAINS, (DOCK)	<i>Taraxacum, Plantago, (Rumex)</i>
RUBY TIGER MOTH	DANDELION, (DOCK)	<i>Taraxacum officinale, (Rumex)</i>
TIGER MOTH	PLANTAIN, SALAD BURNET, DANDELION, (NETTLE)	<i>Plantago spp., Sanguisorba minor, Taraxacum, (Urtica)</i>
CINEBAR MOTH	(RAGWORT)	<i>(Senecio jacobaea)</i>
YELLOW UNDERWING	DANDELION	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
GHOST SWIFT	(RAGWORT)	<i>(Senecio jacobaea)</i>
SWALLOWTAIL MOTH	(IVY)	<i>(Hedera helix)</i>

Note: In this table, the plants in brackets are large, 'weedy' and not suitable for every garden, so they are included only in our SPECIAL BUTTERFLY AND MOTH FOODPLANT MIX.

We can make our gardens more friendly to butterflies, and of genuine conservation value, by growing some of the wild food plants on which their caterpillars feed. We can do this by planting selected wildflowers among our more formal plants, or by sowing a 'Butterfly plant mix' of British native wild plants in a suitable area, perhaps as part of a wildlife garden or within an orchard or wildflower meadow.

However, some of the butterfly food plants are stinging nettles, thistle and burdock, which not everyone wishes to display in a formal garden. Therefore HERBISEED has prepared two separate mixtures. The first is the more popular '**BUTTERFLY, MOTH AND POLLINATOR MIX**' ('BUTTERFLY MIX' for short) which contains a range of native wildflowers and the more decorative caterpillar food plants including grasses. This mixture produces a range of different flower types to suit long tongued butterflies and bees and the short-tongued hoverflies and pollen eating insects, providing a succession of flowers throughout the growing season. It also contains the caterpillar food plants of many butterflies and moths, but not stinging nettle, thistle and dock, which

are not welcomed in most gardens. This is the mixture for most peoples' garden, giving a pleasing display of wild flowers throughout the summer and contributing to a balanced ecology within the garden and the wider environment.

For the real butterfly enthusiast, we produce the '**SPECIAL BUTTERFLY AND MOTH FOODPLANT MIX**' (SPECIAL BUTTERFLY MIX for short) which contains the less aesthetic (to humans) plants which are absolutely necessary to many of our common butterflies and moths. This mixture is best sown in a secluded corner of the garden where the sturdy growth of burdock and the aggressive bearing of the stinging nettle can be tolerated.

HOW TO SOW YOUR BUTTERFLY MIX

The Butterfly, Moth and Pollinator mix will produce wildflowers which are fully acceptable in the normal garden, and will grow in most soils in partial or full sun. The Special Butterfly and Moth Foodplant mix is for enthusiasts, and contains some rather weedier species. It will thrive in sun or light shade, so could be grown in a far corner, by the shed or in the orchard.

Scatter 100g of Seed Mixture on 5 square metres of finely raked soil and rake in lightly, ideally in early spring. Within a few weeks a range of butterfly plants will establish and will begin attracting egg-laying females by midsummer. Do not use pesticides in the vicinity. In late autumn, tidy up with a strimmer if desired and leave the perennial butterfly plants to grow again naturally the following spring.

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