

# *“Solutions for a happier lawn and garden”*



## **ACCOUTREMENTS FOR YOUR BACKYARD BUTTERFLY HAVEN (How to attract butterflies into your yard with little extras)**

John Franke, our Old Saybrook Nursery Manager, wrote eloquently about some of the best plants to attract the caterpillar and the adult stages of butterflies in one of our previous Van Wilgen's News Letters. This week John will be talking about the best perennials to draw butterflies in. Plants and sunshine are key to creating a butterfly haven, but there are a few other simple things you can do and accoutrements you can add to ensure they come to visit your backyard butterfly haven every year.

**SUN:** When a beautiful butterfly emerges from their cocoon, they are cold. They need the sun to warm them up, pump blood into their veins, and fly. Limb up branches of overhanging trees and prune back shrubs to let the light shine into your butterfly haven.

**BASKING:** Butterflies love to bask in the sun. Provide them with a big, flat rock to sunbathe on. Put it right in your butterfly garden. Bring a cup of coffee outside and look to see butterflies basking in the cooler hours of the morning.

**BUTTERFLY HOUSE:** A butterfly house or hibernation box is a wonderful garden accessory for your butterfly haven. Place it in a lightly shaded area, several feet above the ground. Butterflies will seek refuge in the narrow openings of the house where predators cannot enter. Butterflies like to get away from the wind and rain. A butterfly house provides perfect protection. Place your butterfly house near nectar and pollen plants.

**PUDDLING:** Male butterflies love to hang out at the water cooler and discuss all the problems they are having with their female counterparts. The only difference is their water cooler is usually a mud puddle. They love mud puddles on a sunny day, after a nice rain fall. They drink the salt and minerals from the soil. Salt and minerals that they later pass to the women as their gift during mating. Salts and minerals greatly improve the health of a butterfly egg, ensuring generations to come. Van Wilgen's has beautiful Butterfly Puddlers or you can make your own at home. Add sand and water to the puddler or a saucer. You may even add a pinch of salt. This will draw in the males and they will pull nutrients from the puddler making future babies stronger.

**BUTTERFLY FEEDER:** Butterflies are pollinators that only drink liquids. They love nectar. Place a Butterfly Feeder in your butterfly garden and butterflies will gravitate to the yellow and red feeders filled with delicious nectar. We carry the feeder and nectar in the store.

Of course the plants in your butterfly garden are the most important accessory but there are so many other accoutrements that will truly enhance your butterfly haven and your enjoyment. The little extras can really attract more butterflies and give you many more opportunities for butterfly watching and picture taking.

Come see us at Van Wilgen's. We would love to help!

Thanks a bunch...Stacey





*Van Wilgen's*

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