

Plant a butterfly garden

For the educator

Some insects are called beneficial, they help the garden in some way. Butterflies play an important role as pollinators in a garden.

CURRICULUM LINKS: HS1-GEO-01

You will need:

- Thick masking tape.
- Seeds from a selection of plants, e.g. salvias, sunflowers, marigolds, sweet peas.
- Watering cans with nozzles.
- Gloves.
- Hand trowels.
- Sunny garden bed or pots.
- Potting mix enhanced with compost or worm castings.
- Possibly a climbing frame (for sweet peas).



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How to plant a garden to attract butterflies.

- This activity is best done in Spring and Summer. Use flower seed or seedlings. Any flower is good but insects are particularly attracted to flowers in yellow, blue or purple colours.
- Identify a suitable sunny spot in the garden.
- Children can work in a small group.
- Children should wear gloves.
- Children use hand trowels to fill the garden bed or pots (if using) with pre-prepared soil mix.
- Fill soil to $\frac{3}{4}$ height of pots.
- Children make a trench in the soil with the trowel in the garden bed or a hole in soil in the pot and sprinkle in seeds. Best if educator assists so that the seeds are spread out in the garden bed and only 7-10 seeds go in each pot, depending on size of pot.
- Children fill soil up to top of pot.
- Children then use watering cans to thoroughly wet seeds and soil. Water should drip out the bottom of the pots.
- Place pots in a sunny position in the garden.
- Children should wash hands when activity is complete.
- Children should water seeds with watering cans daily.
- Seeds will take approximately 10 days to 2 weeks to germinate.
- Once seeds have germinated they still need to be watered daily in summer.