



Butterfly Garden for Children's Museum of Oak Ridge

BY TENNESSEE NATURESCAPES

GATHERED BY SIRU CURZON

Why Are Native Plants Important?

1. Human-dominated landscapes, especially lawns, don't support functioning ecosystems, and the remaining isolated natural areas are not large enough to support wildlife. We need native plants to provide food (act as larval hosts and feed adults), support and shelter to the native wildlife living in and around our yards.
2. Since many insects like butterflies and moths co-evolved with native plants, they cannot complete their life cycle if there is a lack of these plants in the landscape. Without the plants and the insects, local birds struggle to find food. For example, native oak trees support over 500 species of native caterpillars, whereas ginko, a tree native to Asia, supports only 5. It takes 6,000 caterpillars to raise one family of chickadees.
3. They are beautiful, offering color, form, texture, and fragrance. They bring butterflies, birds, mammals, hummingbirds, and other native wildlife to your yard.
4. They may need less water since they are adapted to our climate and soils. This means you save time, money, and water.
5. They prefer our soils, requiring less amendments and fertilizers. Traditional suburban lawn has more chemical pesticides per acre than farmland. Use of strong pesticides have been linked to declines in bee populations, and they also harm people's health.

Planting Tips

1. Dig planting holes twice as wide as the root ball but the same height.
2. (Optional: Fill the hole with water and let it soak into the surrounding soil before planting)
3. Loosen the root ball with your hands and gently spread the roots if possible. This will encourage root growth into the surrounding soil.
4. Set the plant in the hole and backfill with native soil that has been broken up into a loose texture. You may also mix a portion of potting soil with the native soil to backfill the hole to help the plant adjust to the native soil (optional). Top of the root ball should be at the level with the surrounding ground.
5. Lightly tamp the soil around the plant roots to make sure of good soil to root contact.
6. Water well after planting. Try to water the plants every day for the first one or two weeks and keep up with the watering for the first two weeks. If the weather is hot and sunny water every day for the best results.



New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun to Part Shade. Average, Dry to Medium, Well-drained soil.

SIZE: 3-4 ft. Spread: 3-5 ft.

FLOWERS: White Fragrant blooms May to July

WILDLIFE: Attracts Butterflies & Hummingbirds

LARVAL HOST TO: Mottled Duskywing, Spring Azure, Summer Azure



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun to Part Shade. Dry to medium, Well-drained soil. Good air circulation.

b 2-4 ft. Spread: 2-3 ft.

FLOWERS: Pink/Lavender Blooms July- September

WILDLIFE: Attracts Hummingbirds and Butterflies

LARVAL HOST TO: Hermit Sphinx Moth and Snout Moths



Glade Hypericum (*Hypericum dolabriforme*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun to Part Shade, Medium to Dry, Well-Drained Soil.

SIZE: up to 18 in. Spread 1-3 ft.

FLOWERS: Yellow-Orange blooms May - August, small fruits in fall

WILDLIFE: Attracts Bees and birds



Passionvine (*Passiflora incarnata*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun-Part Shade. Avg-Medium Soil. Roots appreciate a loose Mulch.

SIZE: 6-8 ft. Spread: 3-6 ft.

FLOWERS: Fringed, Purple-White, July-September

WILDLIFE: Attracts Bumblebees and Butterflies

LARVAL HOST TO: Gulf and Variegated Fritillary Butterfly



Fireworks Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa* 'Fireworks')

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun to Light Shade. Medium to Dry, Sandy, Well Drained Soil.

SIZE: 15-18 in. Spread: 12-24 in.

FLOWERS: Canary yellow blooms mid-day in June

WILDLIFE: Attracts Bees & Butterflies



Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun. Average, Dry to Medium, Well-drained Soil. Does best in hot, dry locations.

SIZE: 1 - 2 ft. Spread: 1 - 2 ft.

FLOWERS: Soft reddish-purple blooms July to August

WILDLIFE: Birds and other wildlife consume seed

LARVAL HOST TO: Zabulon Skipper



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun. Average, Dry to Medium, Well-drained soil. Performs well in poor soils.

SIZE: 1-2 ½ ft. Spread 1 –1 ½ ft.

FLOWERS: Orange-Yellow blooms June - August

WILDLIFE: Attracts Butterflies

LARVAL HOST TO: Monarch Butterfly, Grey Hairstreak, and Queen Butterflies.



Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun- Part Shade. Average, Dry to Medium Soil. Tolerates poor soils and drought.

SIZE: 3-4 ft. Spread 3-4 ft.

FLOWERS: Showy Indigo Blue blooms May - June

WILDLIFE: Attracts Butterflies

LARVAL HOST TO: Sulphur Butterflies, Eastern Tailed blue, Hoary edge, and Wild Indigo duskywing.



Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun to Part Shade. Average, Medium to wet, Well-drained soil. Adapts to shade.

SIZE: 3-5 ft. Spread: 3-5 ft.

FLOWERS: White fragrant blooms June to July

WILDLIFE: Attracts Butterflies, Bees & Moths



Raydon's Favorite Aromatic Aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium* 'Raydon's Favorite')

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun to Part Shade. Average, Dry to Medium, Well-drained Soil.

SIZE: 2-3 ft. Spread: 3 ft.

FLOWERS: Violet-Blue-Yellow, August-September

WILDLIFE: Attracts Butterflies

LARVAL HOST TO: Pearl Crescent butterfly



Showy Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *speciosa*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun to Part Shade, Well-drained, Average to Dry soil.

SIZE: 2-3 ft. Spread: 1-2 ft.

FLOWERS: Golden blooms June - October

WILDLIFE: Attracts Butterflies, Bees and Birds

LARVAL HOST TO: Wavy-lined Emerald, Silvery Checkerspot



Largeflower Fameflower (*Phemeranthus calycinus*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun. Average-Dry, Well-drained, Prefers Rocky or Sandy Soil.

SIZE: 6-10 in. Spread: 4-6 in.

FLOWERS: Pink-Magenta blooms May to September. Flowers open in the afternoon.

WILDLIFE: Attracts Bees and other small pollinators



Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)

GARDEN SITE: Full Sun. Average, Dry to Medium, Well-drained Soil. Intolerant of wet soil in winter.

SIZE: 2-5 ft. Spread: 1-2 ft.

FLOWERS: Fluffy Rose-Purple blooms July-August

WILDLIFE: Attracts Hummingbirds and Butterflies

LARVAL HOST TO: Bleeding flower moth

Butterflies & Moths that depend on these plants!



Spring Azure



Hermit Sphinx Moth



Gulf Fritillary



Zabulon Skipper



Monarch Butterfly



Clouded Sulphur



Grey Hairstreak



Wild Indigo Duskywing



Pearl Crescent



Wavy-lined Emerald Moth



Bleeding Flower Moth



Eastern Tailed-Blue

(Photos by Google)