

# Butterfly Garden

1. Decide on an area to develop as a butterfly garden.
2. Draw a map of this site and plan the design of your Butterfly garden.
3. Plant holly, Buckthorn and buddleia as a back border for your garden. If there is a wall plant ivy.
4. Clear a section of ground from all plants and sow wildflower seed mix [see below].
5. Create a border and erect a signboard indicating Wildflower bed.
6. Have another section and let it go wild naturally with whatever is already there. This will show a different outcome.
7. Erect signboards naming the plant and which species of butterfly it will attract

The table below shows the Irish butterflies that are common and widespread. I have included the brimstone and holly blue butterflies that are locally common and maybe attracted to your area if the host plant is planted. The host plants provide food for the caterpillars. Other flowering plants that attract adult butterflies include buddleia, bedding plants, herbs and the wildflower mix.

## Bedding plants

Early flowering

Purple Aubretia, Pansy, Sweet Rocket, Primrose, Bluebells, Heathers, Nasturtium, Sweet Pea, Purple Loosestrife, Field Scabious

## Late flowering herbs

Lavender, Mint, Thyme, Rosemary, Chives,

## Shrubs

Buddleia [known as the butterfly bush]

[www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)

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## Host Plants for Butterflies

Plant	Butterfly
Meadow Vetchling	Wood White
Bird's foot trefoil	Wood White, Common Blue, Dingy Skipper
Buckthorn	Brimstone [local]
Cabbage family	Large White, Small White, Green-veined White
Lady's Smock	Orange Tip
Dock or sorrel	Small Copper
Holly	Holly Blue [local]
Nettle	Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral
Thistle	Painted Lady
Grasses	Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Ringlet

Wildflower seed mix GF03 from [www.wildflowers.ie](http://www.wildflowers.ie)

GF03 mix

Bird's Foot Trefoil, Black Meddick, Burdock, Burnet Saxifrage, Common Vetch, Corn Marigold, Corn Poppy, Corn Cockle, Corn Flower, Devil's Bit Scabious, Field Scabious, Fleabane, Foxglove, Greater trefoil, Hedge mustard, Kidney Vetch, Lady's Bedstraw, Lesser Knapweed, Marjoram, Scented Mayweed, Meadow Vetchling, Meadowsweet, Ox-eyed Daisy, Purple Loosestrife, Ragged Robin, Red Campion, Red Clover, Hawkbit, Cat's ear, Ribwort Plantain, Shepherd's Purse, Sorrel, St John's Wort, Teasel, Water Avens, Wild Angelica, Wild Carrot, Yarrow, Dame's Violet, Dog Violet, Wood sage