

Gardens for wildlife

Butterfly attracting plants

There are 24 butterfly species native to Melbourne see how many you can find in your garden. Butterflies feed on nectar.

Attracted by scent and colour, they prefer yellow, orange, blue, violet, purple or white flowers. The petals of daisies make great landing pads to access nectar.

Invite butterflies to your garden

- **A tangled dense bank** of flowering plants and shrubs in a sheltered sunny corner, for sunning during the day and hiding at night.
- **A moist shady patch** beneath local native shrubs and trees.
- **Native grasses and sedges** so caterpillars can hide undisturbed – remember caterpillars are part of the diet of birds, predatory beetles, lizards and frogs. Victorian Skipper and Brown Butterflies feed on nectar of native grasses. A favourite grass of butterflies is the *Gahnia* spp.
- **Some open ground** with leaf litter and a few rocks for butterflies to sun themselves.
- **Variations in ground levels** and in the height of shrubs and trees.
- **Variation in flower timing** to provide continuous food in active butterfly season the warm days of spring, summer, autumn.



Swordgrass brown butterfly by Russell Best

Butterflies have taste buds on their feet so if they land on surfaces affected by insecticides or toxic substances this causes instant death



Nectar plants for butterflies

Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)
Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia spinulosa*)
Swamp Daisy (*Brachyscome cardiocarpa*)
Cut-leaf Daisy (*Brachyscome multifida* var. *multifida*)
Blue Pin-cushion (*Brunonia australis*)
Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa*)
Yellow Buttons (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*)
Common Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*)
Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*)
Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)
Furze Hakea (*Hakea sericea*)
Bushy Needlewood (*Hakea ulicina*)
Satin Everlasting (*Helichrysum leucopsideum*)
Button Everlasting (*Helichrysum scorpioides*)
Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*)
Prickly tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*)
Woolly Tea tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*)
Silky Tea tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*)
Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*)
Scented Paperbark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*)
Long Purple Flag (*Patersonia occidentalis*)
Bootlace Bush (*Pimelea axiflora* subsp. *axiflora*)
Curved Rice-flower (*Pimelea curvifolia* var. *sericea*)
Small Rice Flower (*Pimelea humilis*)
Tall Rice-flower (*Pimelea ligustrina*)
Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*)
Small Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea minor* subsp. *lutea*)

More plant information

Southern Dandenong Community Nursery's brochure has more grass species suitable for butterflies to lay their eggs on.

<http://sdcn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BUTTERFLIES.pdf>