

Cohen Woodlands Butterfly-Pollinator Garden

Pollinator populations, including bees and butterflies, are declining due to environmental threats, habitat loss, chemical use in gardens and property, invasive plant species, and parasites.

The goal of this garden project is to educate the public on this issue and demonstrate how to garden for butterflies and pollinators. The original garden has been renovated and expanded. Educational information is available. The garden plants are identified with plant labels during the growing season. Seeds from many of the plants are re-sown in the garden each autumn; others are left for the birds.

In addition to various species of bees, butterflies and moths, hummingbirds have been spotted in the garden.

Funding for this garden has been generously provided by Connecticut Master Gardener Association grants and the Colchester Garden Club. A heartfelt thanks to Judy Burris and Wayne Richards, a sister-brother author and photographer team, for permission to use their Butterfly Identification Guide for garden fundraising efforts (The Life Cycle of Butterflies). Plant and seed donations from Colchester Garden Club members, Girl Scout Troop 63265, and the Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Outreach Free Seed Program. Arrow Fence Company in East Hampton donated the rounded post and rail fence. Rose Petal Farm donated mulched leaves. Mulch and other assistance continue to be provided by the Town Colchester Public Works Department. Volunteers have included Master Gardeners and interns, Colchester Garden Club members, community groups and individuals.

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The overall garden design is complete and will be reassessed each year. New plant material may be added and existing plants removed as the garden evolves over time.

Plant List

Perennials - Early Season

Crocus, Daffodils, Tulips

Perennials - Mid-Season

Creeping Cotula *Leptinella squalida* Platt's Black
 N Creeping Sedum
 N Creeping Thyme *Thymus Praecox* 'Highland Cream'
 N Creeping Thyme *Thymus Praecox* 'Pink Chintz'
 N Feverwort *Centarium erythraea*
 N Grassy Bells *Edraianthus tenuifolius*
 N Green and Gold *Chrysogonum virginianum var australe*
 N Wineleaf Cinquefoil *Potentilla Tridantata* 'Nuuk'
 N Agastache *Hyssop-Anise* 'Blue Fortune'
 N Agastache 'Kudos'
 N Aster *Aster* 'Blue Autumn'
 N Aster *Aster* 'Purple Dome'
 N, H Butterfly Weed *Asclepias curassavica* 'Silky Gold'
 N, H Butterfly Weed *Asclepias tuberosa*
 N, H Joe Pye Weed *Eutrochium purpureum*
 'Little Joe Pye Weed'
 N Bee Balm *Monarda* 'Pink Lace'
 N Bee Balm *Monarda Didyma* 'Jacob Cline'
 N Black eyed Susan *Rudebeckia*
 N, H Bronze Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare* 'Rubrium'
 N Catmint *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low'
 N Coneflower *Echinacea* 'Magnus'
 N Coneflower *Echinacea* 'Pow Wow White'
 N Coneflower *Echinacea* 'Pow Wow Red'
 N Coreopsis Tickseed 'Star Cluster'
 N Daylily *Hemerocallis* 'Stella D'Oro'
 N, H Common Milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*
 N, H Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias Incarnata* 'Ice Ballet'
 N, H Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias Incarnata*
 N False Sunflower *Heliopsis helianthoides* 2 var.

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Perennials - Mid-Season – continued

N Globe Thistle *Echinops Ritro*
 N Helenium 'Mariachi Siesta'
 N Obedient Plant *Physostegia vir.* 'Miss Manners'
 N Penstemon 'Cha Cha Hot Pink'
 N Penstemon *Penstemon digitalis* 'Dark Towers'
 N Phlox Paniculata 'Eva Cullen'
 N, H Queen Anne's Lace *Daucus carota*
 N Russian Sage *Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Little Spire'
 N Shasta Daisy *Leucanthemum x superbum* 'Becky'
 N Yarrow *Achillea* 'Strawberry Seduction'

Perennials - Late Season

N Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
 N Garlic Chives

Shrubs

N Butterfly Bush *Buddleia* 'Miss Molly'
 N Butterfly Bush *Buddleia* 'Miss Ruby'
 Ilex Glabra 'Shamrock'
 N Low Bush Blueberry *Vaccinium Angustifolium*
 'Burgundy'
 N Rose of Sharon *Hibiscus syriacus* (2 varieties)
 N St. John's Wort *Hypericum x patulum* 'Hidote'
 N Weigela Sonic Bloom™ Red Reblooming

Annuals

N Ageratum
 N Cleome
 N Cosmos
 N, H Dill *Anethum graveolens*
 N Lantana 'Bandana Red'
 H Parsley *Petroselinum crispum* 'Flat Head'
 H Parsley *Petroselinum crispum* 'Italian'

N = Nectar source for butterflies
H = Host plant for butterfly larvae



The Butterfly-Pollinator Garden at Cohen Woodlands

McDonald Road off Rte. 354
Colchester, CT 06415

A Collaborative Advanced Master Gardener Community Outreach Project in partnership with the Colchester Garden Club and Town of Colchester Public Works. Financial support provided by grants and fundraiser. Donations to this project have been contributed by a variety of sources. Hands-on garden assistance supplied garden club members, Master Gardeners and interns, and other local groups and volunteers.

Open to the Public Year-Round



Cohen Woodlands Butterfly-Pollinator Garden

If you would like to:

- Volunteer in this garden and help with its maintenance
- Donate funds for other community beautification and gardening for wildlife projects in Colchester
- Learn more about Butterfly-Pollinator gardening

contact the Colchester Garden Club at
colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com

If you'd like to visit other gardens:

Lockwood Farm – Bird and Butterfly Garden
390 Evergreen Avenue, Hamden CT
For map and hours:

http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/brochures/b&bg_brochure_july_24_2013.pdf

Heritage Garden and Pollinator Garden
Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House,
780 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon CT

If you'd like to learn more:

Creating wildlife habitats and certify your property as a National Wildlife Federation Individual Wildlife Habitat

<http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Create.aspx>

National Wildlife Federation

www.nwf.org/Pollinators/Pollinator-Divide.aspx

Monarch Watch-Monarch Waystation Program

www.monarchwatch.org

Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

<http://millionpollinatorgardens.org>

Wild Ones www.wildones.org

“Wild for Monarchs” brochure and articles

Tips for Planting a Butterfly Garden

Location

Butterflies are cold-blooded insects and fly when air temperature is between 60°-108° F, although temperatures between 82°-100° F are best.

- Pick a site with at least 6 hours sunlight daily.
- Do a soil test through Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station or UCONN Home and Garden Center then amend soil as needed
- Remove invasive vegetation (www.cipwg.org)
- Provide a sheltered area. Wind can make it difficult for butterflies to maneuver requiring extra energy.

Plants

- Plant a variety of plants blooming at different times so adult butterflies have a nectar source 3 seasons.
- Include **Host plants** for butterflies to have a place to lay their eggs and caterpillars have a food source.
- Butterflies like bright colors like red, yellow, orange, pink, and purple. Plant color groupings of different types of flowering plants.
- Plant lists available on internet or books.

Design

- Research and select as many native plant species as possible with a succession of bloom from early Spring to late Autumn to provide nectar throughout the seasons as well as larval host plants.
- Consider a variety of shrubs, perennials and annuals for bio-diversity.
- Plant nectar plants in large groups so they can be seen from farther away, suggest odd number multiples of the same perennial/annual
- Place host plants near nectar plants as butterflies will likely lay their eggs on or close to host plants their caterpillars will feed on.
- Add sizable flat rocks to the garden for butterflies to bask and warm themselves.
- Consider adding a Puddling area; provides mineral nutrients that males need for reproduction

Eliminate or Reduce Use of Chemicals

Avoid using chemicals in your garden and on your lawn. These products can kill butterflies and other beneficial insects in both their larval and adult phase, Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

<https://www.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools/introduction-integrated-pest-management>

