

**All Gardens  
Great & Small**  
by  
York Co.  
Horticultural Agent  
**Tom Becker**



**Caterpillars Become Butterflies That All Enjoy**

Yes, even if you do nothing at all in your garden this summer, butterflies will still pass through your yard. But, with a little effort you can encourage them to stay, rear their young, and multiply. Your garden will become alive with butterflies.

No matter how great or small your garden space, create the right habitat for butterflies like warm sunny spaces, shelter from wind, and plenty of water and food for both the adult butterfly and (caterpillar) larvae. That may mean using fewer insecticides that harm caterpillars and permitting a weed or two to grow in the garden.

Each butterfly type selects a plant species to host their young. Look first at which butterflies frequent your garden and which plants they like to feed on. For example the parsley caterpillar worm turns into the beautiful black Swallowtail. They feed on carrot, celery, parsley and parsnips. The Monarch caterpillar likes milkweed. A simple guide book will help you recognize each caterpillar.

Many types of flowers provide nectar butterflies. Many butterflies like the same flowers; mainly those with fragrance that provide the most nectar. Butterflies like flowers that are easy to land on and that have nectar readily accessible. That means either flat flowers, like those in the daisy family, or a cluster of small florets such as Lantana or Phlox. Plant single varieties of plants such as Zinnias and Marigolds. Even wonder why butterflies shun multi-petaled flowers like Roses or Peonies?

Butterflies have varying flower color preferences. Many types like purple, pink, yellow or white flowers. Since most insects don't see red and because red flowers usually lack fragrance, it's not a choice color to plant (of course, you'll probably want to add these to attract hummingbirds that prefer them).

Whichever flowers you choose, get the attention of butterflies flying by, with mass planting. Avoid planting a mixture of flower types in small areas. Also, butterflies are out all spring and summer. Choose some flowers for spring, summer

and even fall so there will always be something blooming.

When flowers are scarce, supplement flower nectar with feeders filled with 10:1 water/sugar solution. A simple feeder can be made by placing a flat sponge soaked with this solution in a saucer. Butterflies can't swim so don't use an open pan of water. They do need water to drink, so you may want to line a depression in the yard with plastic and fill it with sand which you keep wet. Mud puddles are favored by butterflies, not just for water but for needed chemicals. Place a few big rocks in the garden for basking in the sun, since butterflies can't fly until they warm up.

Some butterflies prefer rotting fruit, carrion, or tree sap to flower nectar. The Anglewings, Admirals, Red Spotted Purple and Mourning Cloak will enjoy a recipe of smashed ripe bananas, sugar or molasses, stale beer or rum and fruit juices. Again, provide a landing sponge in the dish filled with this concoction. They'll also appreciate leftover melons or other rotting fruit.

The average life of a butterfly is just a few weeks. Be sure to include some host plants so you can enjoy the next generation. Plant extra parsley for the hungry black Swallowtail and invite that Queen-Anne's-lace that always volunteers among your flowers.

Those violets invading your lawn were made just for Fritillaries, and butterfly weed will look as attractive in your garden as it does in the pasture. Other favorite host plants are Nettles (Admiral), Turtlehead (Baltimore), Thistles (Painted Lady), and Spicebush (Spicebush). Trees include Cherry (Tiger Swallowtail), Paw Paw (Zebra Swallowtail), Willow (Viceroy and Mourning Cloak) and Hackberry (Hackberry).

Some irresistible nectar plants are (Butterfly Bush), Lantana, Monarda, Coneflowers, Butterfly Weed, Asters and Phlox.

You'll find detailed listings in books such as Ortho's "How to Attract Hummingbirds and Butterflies" or Stokes' "The Butterfly Book."

Information for this article was provided by Violet Stailey, a Penn State Master Gardener from York County.

**Charolais Seminar  
July 13**

COOKSVILLE, Md. — On Saturday, July 13, the second Annual Charolais Education Seminar Day will be held at the Central Research and Education Center of the University of Maryland in Clarksville, Md.

The day is sponsored jointly by the Colonial Charolais Association, The Cooperative Extension Service of Howard County, and the University of Maryland.

Four pens of Charolais heifers and bulls will be available for the morning's judging contest. This judging event is a mandatory practice for many of the teams.

Official placings and reasons will be given by Dr. Bill Able, a nationally recognized livestock judge and formerly head of the Animal Science Department at Mississippi State University. Able

has recently taken the position of executive vice president of the American International Charolais Association (AICA).

Lunch will be available at a reasonable cost between the morning judging contests and the fun contests planned for the juniors in the afternoon. All contests are open to all youth on a sign-up basis. The afternoon's fun will include a hay-stacking contest, leading an animal through an obstacle course and guessing the combined weight of several bulls. Prizes will be awarded to contestants placing 1st through 4th place in each contest.

For a complete schedule of the day's activities or any other information, contact Bob Bell at (410) 442-2005, Martin Hamilton at (410) 313-2707, or Tom Moreland at (301) 596-9550.

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