

## Butterfly Gardens

Butterfly	Host for adult	Host for Larva
Monarch – Danaus plexippus	milkweed	milkweed
black swallowtails (Papilio polyxenes)		parsley family (Umbelliferae)

Butterflies	Host Plants
Tiger Swallowtail (Papilio canadensis)	Birches ( Betula spp. ), Aspens (Populus spp. )
Black Swallowtail (Papilio polyxenes)	Alexanders (Zizia spp.)
Western Checkered White (Pontia accidentalis)	Cruciferans (mustard family)
Cabbage White (Pieris rapae)	Cruciferans, nasturtiums
Common Sulphur (Colias philodice)	Legumes (pea family), clover, vetch, alfalfa
Alfalfa Butterfly (Colias eurytheme)	Legumes, clover, vetch, alfalfa
Western Tailed Blue (Everes amyntula)	Legumes, clover, wild pea (Astragalus spp.)
Silvery Blue (Glaucopsyche lygdamus)	Legumes, wild pea, milk-vetch (Astragalus spp.)
Variegated Fritillary (Euptoieta claudia)	Violets, (Viola spp.), Pansies
Aphrodite Fritillary (Speyeria aphrodite)	Violets (Viola spp.)
Gorgone Checkerspot (Chlosyne gorgone)	Composites, sunflowers (Helianthus spp.)
Pearl Crescent (Phycoides tharos)	Asters (Aster spp.)
American Painted Lady (Vanessa virginiensis)	Composites, burdocks, everlasting (Antennaria spp.)
Painted Lady (Vanessa cardui)	Composites, thistles, sunflowers (Helianthus spp.)
Red Admiral (Vanessa atalanta)	Nettles (Urtica spp.)
Viceroy (Limenitis archippus)	Willows (Salix spp.), poplars (Populus spp.)
Mourning Cloak (Nymphalis antiopa)	Willows (Salix spp.), poplars (Populus spp.)
Monarch (Danaus plexippus)	Milkweeds (Asclepias spp.)

### NECTAR PLANTS FOR ADULT BUTTERFLIES

The most appealing method of feeding adult butterflies is by growing nectar-rich flowers. Most bedding plants, or garden annuals, are not a butterfly's first choice, but some such as zinnias and nasturtiums produce enough nectar to be attractive. Perennials tend to be better nectar producers, but most of these have fairly short flowering seasons. To produce a

garden that has nectar available throughout the growing season means growing a variety of perennials with overlapping flowering times.

1. Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
2. Fritillary (*Speyeria* sp.)

Here's some suggestions for Nectar Producing Plants you could grow in your garden.

## ANNUALS / BEDDING PLANTS

Zinnia	<i>Zinnia</i> spp.
Nasturtiums	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>
Dianthus	<i>Dianthus</i> spp.
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>
Petunia	<i>Petunia</i> spp.
French Marigold	<i>Tagetes patula</i>

ANNUALS / BEDDING PLANTS / [PERENNIALS](#) / [SHRUBS](#) / [SOURCE](#)

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## PERENNIALS

Pink-flowered onion	<i>Allium stellatum</i>
White prairie-clover	<i>Petalostemon candidum</i>
Purple prairie-clover	<i>Petalostemon purpureus</i>
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Dwarf milkweed	<i>Asclepias ovalifolia</i>
Whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Many-flowered aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>
Smooth aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>
Flodman's thistle	<i>Cirsium flodmanii</i>
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea augustifolia</i>
Smooth fleabane	<i>Erigeron glabellus</i>

Gaillardia	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>
Narrow-leaved sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>
Rough false sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>
Meadow blazingstar	<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>
Dotted blazingstar	<i>Liatris punctata</i>
Long-headed coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Graceful goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>

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## SHRUBS

Lilacs	<i>Syringa spp.</i>
Tatarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tartarica</i>
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Choke Cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
Crabapples	<i>Malus spp.</i>

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

While having the appropriate host plants is the foundation of a real butterfly garden, you shouldn't ignore the butterflies' other habitat requirements. Food for adult butterflies of many species consists of things other than nectar. Some draw sustenance from decaying fruit or tree sap and many draw vital nutrients from mud puddles, where salts and other organic substances accumulate, and even from animal feces. Obviously, you should use discretion when choosing to provide for certain types of butterflies. I wouldn't want to be accused of giving people an excuse not to clean up their doggie droppings under the pretext of feeding butterflies! A simple "butterfly feeder" can be made by suspending a small tray from a branch or pole and placing some pieces of over-ripe fruit on it. Some commercial butterfly-feeders are now available. They are similar to hummingbird-feeders, but usually with a yellow or blue coloured "flower" and sugar water to mimic nectar. Their effectiveness remains to be proven, though. (I've never had much luck with mine.)

Certain physical features of your home and garden benefit some butterflies as well. Many species require protected areas for the chrysalis (white admiral, [Limenitis arthemis](#)), the seemingly inert stage in a butterfly's life where the incredible process of metamorphosis occurs. Caterpillars will often search out areas such as the eaves of buildings, under tree branches or in brush piles as sites to hang their chrysalis. Secure sites are particularly important to species that overwinter in the chrysalis, like the tiger swallowtail ([Papilio canadensis](#)). Butterflies that overwinter as adults, such as the mourning cloak ([Nymphalis antiopa](#)), often make use of tree cavities or loose shingles or boards to provide them with hibernacula. A little less fastidiously maintained yard and house could benefit such butterflies.

Limit the use of pesticides

[http://www.cbif.gc.ca/spp\\_pages/butterflies/gardening\\_e.php](http://www.cbif.gc.ca/spp_pages/butterflies/gardening_e.php)

Butterfly Life History

DRFN Butterfly ID workshops and outings

**Butterflies have specific habitat requirements.**

Females of many butterfly species will lay their eggs only on one or two specific native plants. Without these plants they are unable to produce a succeeding generation. Habitat loss due to human activities and replacement of native plants with ornamental and non-native plants has a devastating impact on the viability of butterfly populations. All life on Earth is dependent on photosynthesizing organisms such as plants. Monitoring butterflies may provide an early warning of threats to the Earth's biodiversity.

<b>Nectar Sources for Butterflies - During Spring</b>	
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Blueberries	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.
Blackberries, Dewberries	<i>Rubus</i> spp.
Wild Plums, Wild Cherries	<i>Prunus</i> spp.
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>

Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>
<b>Nectar Sources for Butterflies - During Summer</b>	
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
Orange (Butterfly) Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Dogbanes	<i>Apocynum</i> spp.
Sumacs	<i>Rhus</i> spp.
Coneflowers	<i>Echinacea</i> spp.
Thistles	<i>Cirsium</i> spp.
Vervains	<i>Verbena</i> spp.
Bergamots	<i>Monarda</i> spp.
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
Cow vetch / purple vetch	<i>Vicia cracca/americana</i>
French Marigold	<i>Tangets patula</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia</i> spp.
<b>Nectar Sources for Butterflies - During Fall</b>	
Asters	<i>Aster</i> spp.
Joe-pye Weeds	<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.
Goldenrods	<i>Solidago</i> spp.
Blazing-stars	<i>Liatris</i> spp.
Ironweeds	<i>Vernonia</i> spp.
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>

<b>Caterpillar Host Plants for widespread Butterflies</b>	
<b>Plant Name</b>	<b>Foodplant for these Caterpillar species</b>
Asters ( <i>Aster</i> )	Pearl Crescent
Cassias ( <i>Cassia</i> )	Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange, Cloudless Sulphur,

	Orange-barred Sulphur
Citrus ( <i>Citrus</i> )	Giant Swallowtail
False Nettle ( <i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> )	Red Admiral
Fennel ( <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> )	Black Swallowtail
Hackberries ( <i>Celtis</i> )	American Snout, Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, Question Mark
Mallows / Hollyhocks	Gray Hairstreak, Common Checkered-Skipper
Milkweeds ( <i>Asclepias</i> )	Monarch, Queen
Parsley ( <i>Petroselinum</i> )	Black Swallowtail
Passion-vines ( <i>Passiflora</i> )	Gulf Fritillary, Zebra (Heliconian), Variegated Fritillary
Pearly-everlastings ( <i>Anaphalis</i> )	American Lady
Pipevines ( <i>Asistolochia</i> )	Pipevine Swallowtail, Polydamas Swallowtail
Purpletop grass ( <i>Tridens flavus</i> )	Common Wood-Nymph, Little Glassywing, Zabulon Skipper
Sassafras ( <i>Sassafras albidum</i> )	Spicebush Swallowtail
Snapdragon ( <i>Antirrhinum major</i> )	Common Buckeye
Sunflowers ( <i>Helianthus</i> )	Silvery Checkerspot, Gorgone Checkerspot
Turtlehead ( <i>Chelone glabra</i> )	Baltimore Cherspot

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pipevine Swallowtail	<i>Battus philenor</i>
Zebra Swallowtail	<i>Eurytides marcellus</i>
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>
Spicebush Swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>

Giant Swallowtail	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio canadensis</i>
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>
Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Clouded / Orange Sulphur White form	<i>Colias philodice/eurytheme</i>
West Virginia White	<i>Pieris virginiensis</i>
Mustard White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Olympia Marble	<i>Euchloe olympia</i>
Large Marble	<i>Euchloe ausonides</i>
Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>
Orange Sulphur (Alfalfa)	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>
Pink-edged Sulphur	<i>Colias interior</i>
Little Yellow	<i>Eurema lisa</i>
Sleepy Orange	<i>Eurema nicippe</i>
Little Yellow - White form	<i>Eurema lisa</i>
Bronze Copper	<i>Lycaena hyllus</i>
American Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Bog Copper	<i>Lycaena expixanthe</i>
Purplish Copper	<i>Lycaena helloides</i>
Dorcas Copper	<i>Lycaena dorcas</i>
Harvester	<i>Feniseca tarquinius</i>
White M Hairstreak	<i>Parrhasius m-album</i>
Coral Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium titus</i>
Banded Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium calanus</i>
Edwards' Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium edwardsii</i>
Hickory Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium caryaevorum</i>
Acadian Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acadicum</i>

Striped Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium liparops</i>
Juniper Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys gryneus</i>
Early Hairstreak	<i>Erora laeta</i>
Henry's Elfin	<i>Callophrys henrici</i>
Brown Elfin	<i>Callophrys augustinus</i>
Frosted Elfin	<i>Callophrys irus</i>
Hoary Elfin	<i>Callophrys polios</i>
Eastern Pine Elfin	<i>Callophrys niphon</i>
Western Pine Elfin	<i>Callophrys eryphon</i>
Bog Elfin	<i>Callophrys lanoraieensis</i>
Gray Hairstreak	<i>Strymon melinus</i>
Spring Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>
Summer Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon neglecta</i>
Eastern Tailed-Blue	<i>Everes comyntos</i>
Western Tailed-Blue	<i>Everes amyntula</i>
Northern Blue	<i>Lycaeides idas</i>
Silvery Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>
Greenish Blue	<i>Plebejus saepiolus</i>
Varigated Fritillary	<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>
Great Spangled Fritillary	<i>Speyeria cybele</i>
Aphrodite Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aphrodite</i>
Atlantis Fritillary	<i>Speyeria atlantis</i>
Meadow Fritillary	<i>Boloria bellona</i>
Silver-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>
Bog Fritillary	<i>Boloria eunomia</i>
Artic Fritillary	<i>Boloria chariclea</i>
Freija Fritillary	<i>Boloria freija</i>
Frigga Fritillary	<i>Boloria frigga</i>
Silvery Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyme nycteis</i>



Harris' Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyme harrisii</i>
Baltimore Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>
Northern Crescent	<i>Phyciodes selenis</i>
Tawny Crescent	<i>Phyciodes batesii</i>
Question Mark	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>
Eastern Comma	<i>Polygonia comma</i>
Green Comma	<i>Polygonia faunus</i>
Gray Comma	<i>Polygonia progne</i>
Satyr Comma	<i>Polygonia satyrus</i>
Hoary Comma	<i>Polygonia gracilis</i>
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>
Compton Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis vau-album</i>
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis milberti</i>
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
American Snout	<i>Libytheana carinenta</i>
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>
Red-spotted Purple	<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis arthemis arthemis</i>
Viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>
Hackberry Emperor	<i>Asterocampa celtis</i>
Tawny Emperor	<i>Asterocampa clyton</i>
Common Wood-Nymph	<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>
Appalachian Brown	<i>Satyrodes appalachia</i>
Eyed Brown	<i>Satyrodes eurydice</i>
Northern Pearly-eye	<i>Enodia anhedon</i>
Little Wood-Satyr	<i>Megisto cymela</i>

Common Ringlet	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>
Chryxus Arctic	<i>Oeneis chryxus</i>
Red-disked Alpine	<i>Erebia discoidalis</i>
Macourn's Arctic	<i>Oeneis polixenes</i>
Jutta Arctic	<i>Oeneis jutta</i>
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>
Northern Cloudywing	<i>Thorybes pylades</i>
Southern Cloudywing	<i>Thorybes bathyllus</i>
Juvenal's Duskywing	<i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>
Dreamy Duskywing	<i>Erynnis icelus</i>
Sleepy Duskywing	<i>Erynnis brizo</i>
Mottled Duskywing	<i>Erynnis martialis</i>
Wild Indigo Duskywing	<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>
Columbine Duskywing	<i>Erynnis lucilius</i>
Common Sootywing	<i>Pholisora catullus</i>
Arctic Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>
European Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>
Least Skipper	<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>
Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>
Leonard's Skipper	<i>Hesperia leonardus</i>
Common Branded Skipper	<i>Hesperia comma</i>
Indian Skipper	<i>Hesperia sassacus</i>
Peck's Skipper	<i>Polites peckius</i>
Long Dash	<i>Polites mystic</i>
Crossline Skipper	<i>Polites origenes</i>
Tawny-edged Skipper	<i>Polites themistocles</i>
Northern Broken-Dash	<i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>
Little Glassywing	<i>Pompeius verna</i>

Dun Skipper	<i>Euphyes vestris</i>
Delaware Skipper	<i>Anatrytone logan</i>
Hobomok Skipper	<i>Poanes hobomok</i>
Broad-winged Skipper	<i>Poanes viator</i>
Mulberry Wing	<i>Poanes massasoit</i>
Dion Skipper	<i>Euphyes dion</i>
Black Dash	<i>Euphyes conspicua</i>
Two-spotted Skipper	<i>Euphyes bimacila</i>
Pepper and Salt Skipper	<i>Amblyscirtes hegon</i>
Common Roadside Skipper	<i>Amblyscirtes vialis</i>
Dusted Skipper	<i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i>

## Butterflies and The Plants Their Caterpillars Eat

Butterfly	Host Plant (The plant that the butterfly will lay its egg on and the caterpillar will later eat.)
Monarch and The Queen	milkweed
Pipevine Swallowtail	pipevine, snakeroot, and knot vine
Black Swallowtail	parsley, carrots, parsnips
Anise swallowtail	anise, fennel, carrots, parsley, parsnips
Orange-Barred Sulphur	Cassia and the pea family
Cloudless sulphur	wild senna
Sara Orange Tip	wild mustard
Southern Dogface	wild indigo and clover
Great Southern White	mustards
Julia, Gulf Fritillary, Zebras	passion flower leaves
Greater Fritillaries and Lesser Fritillaries	violets
Diana	manure piles
Filed Crescent	asters
Painted Lady and Mylitta Crescent	thistles
Question Mark	elm
Satyr	nettles

Fawn	birch, alder
Zephyr	elm and currant
Comma	nettle and hops
Buckeye	plantain and gerardia
West Coast Lady and Grizzled Skipper	mallows
Red Admiral and Milbert's Tortoise Shell	nettles
Mourning Cloak	elm, willow, and poplar
White Admiral	birch, willow, and poplar
Viceroy	willow and poplar
Red-Spotted Purple	wild cherry
California sister	live oak
Nais Metalmark	wild plum
American Copper	sheep sorrel
Eastern Tailed Blue, Orange-Bordered Blue	legumes
Pygmy Blue and Dwarf Blue	lamb's tongue
Common Blue	dogwood flowers
Marine Blue	buds and blossoms of wisteria, alfalfa, locoweed, and legumes
Southern Cloudy Wing and Northern Cloudy Wing	clover and legumes
Silver Spotted Skipper	wisteria and locusts

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<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/butterfly/>

<http://cocoon.org/>

A successful butterfly garden provides plants that meet the requirements of butterflies in all four stages: eggs, lava, pupa and adult.

Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed plants and their caterpillars eat the leaves.

Adults need: - nectaring plants for food  
- host plant for their eggs and for the eventual larvae - usually species specific

Nectar: most butterflies eat only nectar different species may prefer different flowers – many different flowers from plants, vines, shrubs and trees

Host Plants: more particular – species specific for different species of butterflies must be a plant that the caterpillar will eat – lay their eggs on underside of leaves

Larva mostly eat leaves on which the eggs were laid on

Pupa does not eat but needs a sheltered environment, camouflage – usually from a twig.

Butterfly adults need – sunlight, like all insects they are cold blooded need sunlight to regulate their body temperature, a sunny spot on cool days and a cool spot to feed on hot days.

Great nectar plants of choice

Butterfly bush (Buddleia)

Lantana

Zinnias

Bee balm

Purple coneflowers

Pentas

Sage

Butterfly Weed or other milkweeds

Lilac

Sunflower

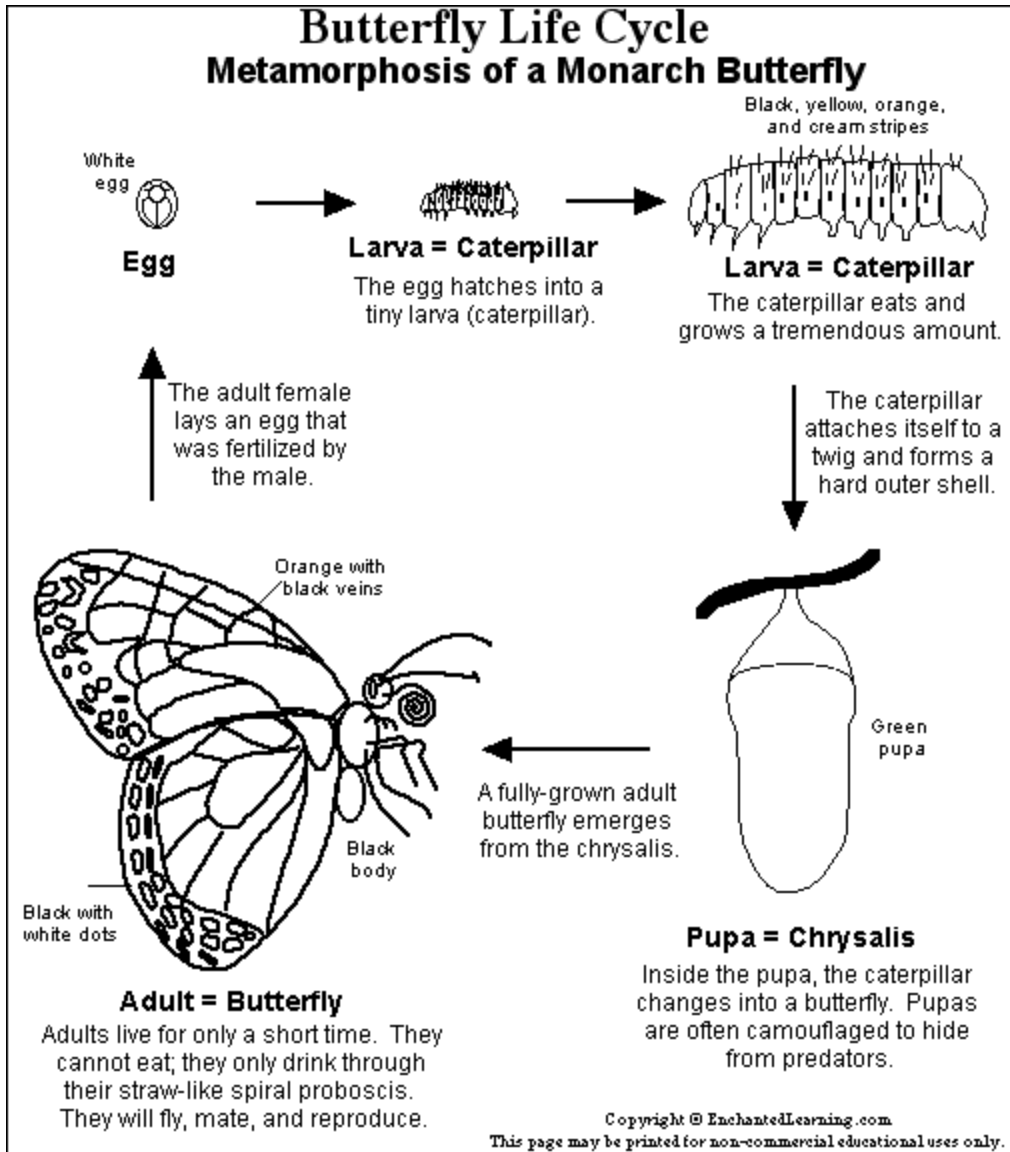
Marjoram

Hebe

Pesticides – do not use may kill adults or caterpillars

## Anatomy of a BF

### Life Cycle



<http://butterflywebsite.com/>