



MORE BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR GARDEN

Since butterflies and their caterpillars feed in different ways, they often rely on different nectar or forage plants as well.

Gardening Tip from
the Palmengarten Exhibition
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The caterpillars of the respective butterfly species tend to enjoy the following food plants, in particular:

| FOOD PLANT | FLOWER COLOR / FLOWERING PERIOD / HEIGHT / POSITION / SOIL | BUTTERFLY SPECIES |
|--|---|--|
| Alder buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>) | yellow-white / V – VI / 250 – 400 cm / ☼☼☼ / clay, peat and moor soils | Common brimstone (<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>) |
| Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>) | light yellow / III – IV / 300 – 600 cm / ☼☼ / undemanding | Comma (<i>Polygonia c-album</i>) |
| Common thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>) | purple / VII – X / 50 – 130 cm / ☼ / calcareous, nutrient-rich clay soils | Painted lady (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>) |
| Wild carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>carota</i>) | white / VI – IX / 30 – 80 cm / ☼ / undemanding | Old World swallowtail (<i>Papilio machaon</i>) |
| Common restharrow (<i>Ononis repens</i>) | pink / VI – VIII / 10 – 30 cm / ☼ / loose, well drained soils | Common blue butterfly (<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>) |
| Stinging nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>) | yellow-green / VI – XI / 30 – 150 cm / ☼☼ / nutrient-rich, damp soils | European peacock (<i>Aglais io</i>) |
| | | Red admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>) |
| | | Small tortoiseshell (<i>Aglais urticae</i>) |

The following nectar plants provide food in the garden for the respective butterfly species:

| NECTAR PLANT | FLOWER COLOR / FLOWERING PERIOD / HEIGHT / POSITION / SOIL | BUTTERFLY SPECIES |
|---|---|--|
| Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>) | purple / VI – IX / 50 – 100 cm / ☼☼☼ / nutrient-rich, damp soils | Common brimstone (<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>) |
| Currant (<i>Ribes</i> spp.) | greenish / IV – V / 80 – 150 cm / ☼☼☼ / humus-rich, nutrient-rich soils | Comma (<i>Polygonia c-album</i>) |
| Red clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>) | purple / VI – IX / 20 – 30 cm / ☼☼☼ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils | Painted lady (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>) |
| Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i> spec.) | yellow / IV – V / 10 – 30 cm / ☼☼ / undemanding | Old World swallowtail (<i>Papilio machaon</i>) |
| Common bird's-foot trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>) | yellow / V – VIII / 5 – 30 cm / ☼ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils | Common blue butterfly (<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>) |
| Creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) | purple / VI – IX / 30 – 150 cm / ☼ / nutrient-rich clay soils | European peacock (<i>Aglais io</i>) |
| European goldenrod (<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>) | yellow / VII – X / 20 – 50 cm / ☼ / nutrient-poor, permeable soils | Red admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>) |
| Hemp-agrimony (<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>) | pink / VII – VIII / 50 – 150 cm / ☼☼☼ / nutrient-rich, damp soils | Small tortoiseshell (<i>Aglais urticae</i>) |