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# WELCOME WILDLIFE

Make your garden a sanctuary for butterflies and birds

BY KAREN DARDICK

BUDDLEIA is also known as Butterfly Bush because it's popular with many species, including majestic Monarch butterflies, shown here.



BUDDLEIA PETITE SNOW MICORROVA GROWERS

With the destruction of so much native habitat, increasingly butterflies and birds need sources for food, shelter and water. Here's how to help them while you enjoy a beautiful garden:

**P**lant them and they will come by the hundreds and hundreds. Painted ladies, gulf fritillaries, mourning cloaks, monarchs, greater sulphurs, tiny buckeyes and skippers are among the many butterfly species that can flit through home landscapes. If you're tired of butterflies fluttering by your own garden, you can persuade them to linger by including a few of their favorite plants.

Butterfly gardening doesn't have to involve a total remake of an already existing garden. Just by adding some nectar rich plants, with flower colors and shapes that lure butterflies, you can entice butterflies into your own property. This is the sage advice of butterfly experts including Maureen Atkins, founder and executive director of CHIRP (Center to Help Instill Respect and Preservation for Garden Wildlife), a non-profit corporation dedicated to creating backyard environments favorable to butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

On a sunny spring or summer day, Atkins steps into her Alpine, California, garden amidst the flutter of hundreds of butterflies, sipping nectar from treetop to ground level.



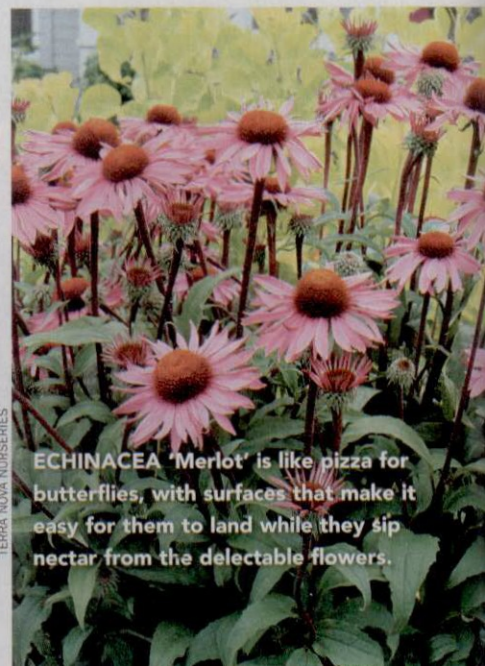
## BUTTERFLY "PIZZAS"

When Atkins gives classes to children, she inspires their imagination by describing plants that butterflies favor as "butterfly pizzas," high in calories and flavor.

"Think of them as flat surfaces and in the center, the really good stuff is like the pepperoni," she said.

What she means is that butterflies favor flowers with flat surfaces, on which they can perch while sipping nectar from their centers. Flat flowers are easy landing pads for them. Butterflies also need sunlight. They are drawn to plants in sunny spots.

"Pizza" plants include species and cultivars of milkweeds (*Asclepias*), asters, butterfly bush (*Buddleia*), common cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*), coneflower (*Echinacea*), lantana, black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), sky flower (*Duranta*), star clusters (*Pentas lanceolata*), sage (*Salvia*) and many more.



TERRA NOVA NURSERIES

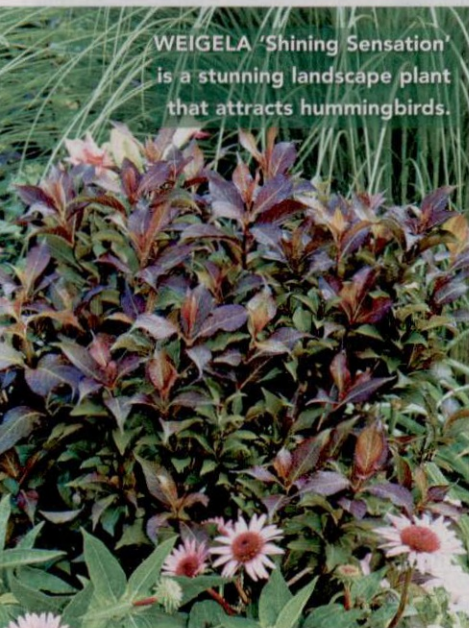
ECHINACEA 'Merlot' is like pizza for butterflies, with surfaces that make it easy for them to land while they sip nectar from the delectable flowers.





This photograph shows an easy, attractive butterfly and bird garden that also includes plants of different shapes and textures.

STEPBLES



WEIGELA 'Shining Sensation' is a stunning landscape plant that attracts hummingbirds.

NOVALIS PLANTS THAT WORK

## BIRD-FRIENDLY IDEAS

Many plants that attract butterflies also entice birds, especially tiny hummingbirds. Birds are also drawn to water, especially the sound of moving water like fountains or birdbaths with misters or drip faucets. One simple method is to place a hose above a dish or shallow pot and let it drip slowly into the container. Be sure to place high enough so predatory cats can't attack.

Shelter from predatory cats or large hawks will encourage more birds into your garden. Plant trees and small shrubs in which they can hide. Better yet is a mix of shrubs and vines that can intertwine to form a dense thicket that can shelter numerous types of birds. A bird-friendly garden isn't necessarily a tidy garden. Leave a few branches from trees or shrubs that may die back. They are good bird perches.

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