## **Butterfly Gardens**

By Jason Aguilar

Butterflies are gentle quiet creatures who bring a peaceful atmosphere to any back yard. In the Sunshine State, there is no better place to create a butterfly garden than your own backyard. Butterflies come in all shapes

and colors that tell an amazing story. Some migrate long distances, like the Monarch's while others stay fairly local. It's fascinating to watch the life cycles of a butterfly. Starting from a tiny egg to a hungry caterpillar, then going through its pupa stage and transforming into the most beautiful, graceful creature to bless our gardens.

Many natural habitats for butterflies have been greatly reduced due to people and the insecticides we spray. We tend to spray the "so called bad bugs" but don't realize that in many cases, we're causing more harm than good. So adding a butterfly garden is a great way to help the ecosystem and help restore a healthy balance of pollinator's right in your own back yard. Nothing is more peaceful and satisfying than watching different butterflies explore the garden you have created.

Butterfly gardens require thought and planning, you will need a variety of plants that butterflies love to eat (host plants)



Blue Porterweed

and flowers for them to drink (nectar plants). These elements are crucial to a successful butterfly garden. Start with some research about your area and what butterflies are native to it. Decide which butterflies you want to attract and the types of flowers they feed and lay eggs on. Here at Anson Nursery, we have a wide range of butterfly plants that would work great in your garden. Some of the plant options will be Florida Friendly while others will be native's to our area. We can help you find the right plants that will be easy to take care of and accomplish your goals.



Things to consider when designing your butterfly garden are color and texture. Butterfly gardens can be a great way to get creative in your yard. Look at paring contrasting colors or adding grasses to contrast between varieties of textures and flowers. Usually a butterfly garden has a wide range of colors and has a free form look where everything just grows together. Garden accessories such as a butterfly house can give a nice touch to the area and protect butterflies from natural elements.

Most importantly, designate an area where your garden can grow in full sun, basically, any area that has direct sun for 6 hours or more.

Anson Nursery can help you each step of the way. We offer free consultations and will create the perfect butterfly garden for your backyard. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the Nursery or it's been awhile since the last time you were in, we would love to meet or see you again. We carry a wide range of trees, shrubs and flowers, and we recently opened a new section of the nursery that is dedicated to only Florida Natives. This area is almost



Seaside Goldenrod

4000Sqft with over 100 different varieties and growing. Anson Nursery is located at 5296 W. Homosassa Trail, Lecanto, FL, our hours are 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday and 9:00am - 4:00pm on Saturday. For more information please give us a call 352-628-4554 or visit http://ansonnursery.net/.



Beginner to expert - We will help you find what you need!

• Our plants are locally grown and meant for the Florida climate.





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