

# Creating a Butterfly Habitat

...at home, at school and in the community

## Small Spaces – Pollinator Garden in a Container

### Materials:

An area with at least 6 hours of sunshine

Large container at least 18" in diameter

Potting Soil

Choose 5 or more host plants from the following:

Aster (Stokes)	Dill	Parsley
Black-eyed Susan	Fennel	Scubmint
Coneflowers	Milkweed	Snapdragon
Daisy	Pansy	Sunflowers

Choose 10 nectar plants from the following:

Butterfly Weed	Lobelia	Scorpion Tail
Blanket Flower	Mexican Heather	Trailing Porter Weed
Coreopsis (Tickseed)	Mexican Sage	Tropical Sage
Cosmos	Pentas	Verbena
Lantana	Petunia	Yarrow

Puddling Source – Flower pot saucer with sand, keep it moist

Basking site – a flat light-colored rock in or near the container

Avoid pesticides & purchase plants that were not sprayed with pesticides



Photo credit – Penelope Lake

## Save the Monarch

Butterflies are facing an uphill battle to survive as more and more natural areas are replaced by urban development. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have launched a major new campaign to save the declining monarch butterfly. They are asking Americans everywhere, from schools to community groups to corporations and governments, to help protect and restore butterfly habitat.

## Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Egg – two days

Caterpillar – two weeks

Pupa- two weeks

Adult – two weeks to two months



## Steps

Begin with the largest plant. Scrape roots to loosen them from the root ball. Position the first plant against the edge of the pot. Continue with the remaining plants working from the largest to the smallest. Place a flat rock for basking next to the pot. Create a puddling station with a flowerpot and moist sand. Keep the sand moist. Water your butterfly container garden daily.

## Butterflies you can expect to see

American Lady, American Cooper, Atala, Banded Hairstreak, Black Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Checkered White, Cloudless Sulphur, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail, Gray Hairstreak, Great Southern White, Great Spangled Fritillary, Gulf Fritillary, Julia, Monarch, Orange-Barred Sulphur, Painted Lady, Pipevine Swallowtail, Queen, Question Mark, Red Admiral, Red-banded Hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple, Silver-spotted Skipper, Silvery Checkerspot, Sleepy Orange, Spicebush Swallowtail, Variegated Fritillary, Zebra Longwing, Zebra Swallowtail

## Native Nurseries in Pinellas County

### Wilcox Nursery

[www.wilcoxnursery.com](http://www.wilcoxnursery.com)

12501 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo, FL 33774

(727) 595-2073

### Twigs & Leaves Nursery

[www.twigsnleaves.com](http://www.twigsnleaves.com)

2131 Central Ave, St. Petersburg FL 33713

(727) 822-5400

*Together we can create oases for the monarch and other butterflies in our community*