LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES



Planting for BUTTERFLIES

When choosing plants to add to your green space, try to make sure that something is always flowering across as much of the year as possible. Check out our handy table below for some ideas of what you can plant and when it flowers – it can be as easy as letting some nettles grow.

FOOD FOR THE SEASON

Spring – March to May

Primrose
Sweet William
Forget me not
Chives

Borage Bugle



Summer – June to August

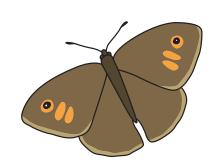
Ox-eye daisy Lavender Wild marjoram Scabious Cornflower Knapweed



Autumn – September to October

Asters
Ice plant
Dahlia (single petals)
Honeysuckle
Flowering ivy







Don't forget food for CATERPILLARS too! If we don't feed them, we won't see any butterflies.

For caterpillars, we recommend planting:

- Lady's smock (Cardamine pratensis) to entice the orange tip butterfly. It's also a great plant for wetter soil
- Bird's foot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus) to encourage the common blue butterfly.
- Common sorrel (Rumex acetosa) will be sure to be noticed by any small copper butterfly.
- Fescue grasses are a particular favourite of the meadow brown butterfly.
- Yorkshire-fog grass (Holcus lanatus) can attract the marbled white, speckled wood and small skipper butterflies.
- Don't want to plant anything? We've got you covered.
 Long uncut grasses and a good clump of stinging
 nettles can play host to caterpillars of comma, peacock,
 red admiral and small tortoiseshell butterflies.

So let that unkempt corner of your garden grow WILD and say it's for the butterflies!

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