

Enclave Butterfly Garden Report:

Create A Porch Butterfly Garden

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Like butterflies and want to see them? Consider creating a porch butterfly garden by growing a few pretty plants in attractive pots set on the sunny side of your back porch.



It's best to provide both butterfly host plants and nectar-rich flowers. "Host plants" are the plants caterpillars eat to grow, form their chrysalises, and become butterflies. Start by choosing one or two of these host plants:

- Parsley, Dill, or Fennel herbs, which feed Black Swallowtail caterpillars
- Passionflower vine, which feeds Gulf Fritillary caterpillars (Choose Passionflower with blue, purple, or white blooms, but avoid ones with red blooms, which can kill Fritillary caterpillars.)
- Rue herb, which feeds Giant Swallowtail caterpillars
- Aquatic Milkweed or Butterfly Weed, which feed Monarch caterpillars

Butterflies can sense the chemical compounds in the specific host plants they're seeking from miles away, so if you include one of these plants, the butterflies will come. The host plant we have in greatest abundance at Enclave Butterfly Garden is Aquatic Milkweed, so if you plant Milkweed, you give Monarchs more places to lay their eggs on their way to Enclave Butterfly Garden.

Butterflies also need flowers. Not all flowers provide enough nectar, though. Good nectar flowers include Pentas and Zinnias, but avoid purchasing Zinnias that have large flowers, because the small-flowered variety provides better nectar. Other good nectar sources include Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Gregg's Mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*), and Sunflowers, which you can grow from bird seed.

HEB sells a few of these host plants and flowers, but you'll find the widest variety of butterfly plants at a nursery less than twenty miles from Fall Creek, Buchanan's Native Plants in the Heights.