



LAY Tools for Schools



Landcaring for Lepidopterans

Butterflies are beautiful to watch during the day but at night it's the moths that rule. In Australia there are only 416 species of butterflies known and over 10,000 moth species named with more to discover. Butterflies and moths are one of the largest groups of insects, the Lepidoptera, and the Australian region has some of the largest butterflies in the world.

These lovely Lepidopterans are important pollinators of our local native plants, that's a very good reason to want them about. Habitat loss is one of their greatest threats.

Butterflies and moths undergo a complete metamorphosis and so are a ready made subject to study life cycles. During the day it's the adult butterfly and moth caterpillars that are most obvious.

A successful butterfly garden needs planning right from the start. It has to include the right features and plants that support all the stages in the butterfly/moth lifecycle from the crawling caterpillar to the fluttering adult.

The Backyard Buddies *Gardening for our Beautiful Butterflies* and Knox City Council's *Gardens for Wildlife Recipe for Success* outline what habitat features are needed to encourage butterflies in your garden.

Butterflies like:

- A bit of sun: Plan for some open ground without overhanging trees. Include rocks and mulch that warm up in the sun to provide a sunning platform
- To be nourished by nectar: A dense planting of local natives with a variety of height and flowering time means a reliable food source throughout the year
- Lots of colour: Butterflies can see ultraviolet especially yellow, orange, blue, purple and white
- Protection from predators: Native grasses and sedges help caterpillars hide undisturbed from birds, lizards, beetles and frogs.
- A water supply: Puddles of water or moist shade to have a drink.

Butterflies loathe:

- Strong winds which tear their fragile wings
- Cats which can frighten or even attack them
- Garden pesticides, which kill them when they land. Their taste buds are on their feet.



More Information

Backyard Buddies- Wildlife friendly guides that focus on specific animals and how to encourage them. There's how to build a butterfly box too. http://www.backyardbuddies.net.au/Meet_Backyard_buddies.html

Butterflies from around Sydney - An amazing guide to all the butterflies and their food supplies- <http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/sydbuts.html>

Gardens for Wildlife- Knox City Council - A great booklet to download with lots of ideas http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/Files/Gardens_for_Wildlife_Booklet.pdf . There are also ideas for early childhood at http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=2290&h=0#BM8517

Picking the Plants



Different butterflies and moths need different plants to feed and lay their eggs upon. The following list is of local native plants that occur in our region that are known to be good food sources for a variety of butterflies, moths and their caterpillars.

When planning your planting the following rule of thumb for plant spacing may be useful.

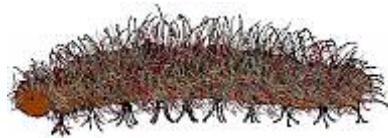
Per m ²	Groundcover	Understorey (herb/grass)	Shrubs	Trees	Vines
Dense planting	1	4	2	0.5	1
Open planting	1	3	1	0.25	

This list can be used as an order form if you would like to pick your plants or you can provide some information about your site and let us plan the planting for you.

Number of plants	Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Habit	Life cycle
	Pigface	<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>	Hardy ground cover	Food plant
	Bushy Hedgehog grass	<i>Echinopogon caespitosus</i>	Grass	Larval food plant
	Arrowhead violet	<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	Tufting Herb to 10cm	Food plant for endangered butterfly <i>Argyreus hyperbius</i>
	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda australis</i>	Grass	Larval food plant
	Blue Flax Lilly	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Herb to 60cm	Caterpillar food
	Spiny-headed Mat Rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Large herb to 1m	Butterfly and caterpillar food
	Warrigal Greens	<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>	Scrambling ground cover- bush tucker	Food plant
	Tall Sedge	<i>Carex appressa</i>	Sedge to 1m	Food plant
	Knobby club-Rush	<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>	Sedge to 70cm	Food plant
	Narrow -leaved Plam Lily	<i>Cordyline stricta</i>	Slender herb to 1.5m	Food plant
	Eggs and Bacon Pea Plant	<i>Dillwynia retorta</i>	Shrub to 2m	Food plant
	Purple Coral Pea	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Climber	Food plant
	Native Indigo	<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Shrub to 2m	Caterpillar food plant
	Twinning Glycine	<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	Twinning Climber	Food plant

Number of plants	Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Habit	Life cycle
	Orange Thorn	<i>Citriobatus pauciflorus</i>	Wiry shrub to 1.5m	Food plant
	White Correa	<i>Correa alba</i>	Shrub to 1m	Food plant
	Blackthorn	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Erect shrub 2-3m	Food plant
	Broad-leaved hakea	<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>	Shrub to 4m	Food plant
	Silky Needle Bush	<i>Hakea sericea</i>	Shrub to 3m	Food plant
	Mountain Devil	<i>Lambertia formosa</i>	Shrub to 2m	Food plant
	Hairpin Banksia	<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	Shrub to 2m	Food plant
	Tree Heath	<i>Trochocarpa laurina</i>	Tall shrub 3-6m	Food plant
	Bolwarra	<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	Shrub to 5m	Caterpillar shelter and food tree
	Coffee Bush	<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Shrub to 3m	Food plant
	Macadamia	<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	Small tree 2-12m	Caterpillar feeds on buds and young shoots
	Native frangipani	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Tree 6-10m	Food plant
	Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Hardy tree to 12m	Caterpillars feed on large seeds
	Scrub Turpentine	<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>	Tree to 12m	Food plant
	Acronychia	<i>Achronychia oblongifolia</i>	Tree 6-15m	Food plant
	Bangalow Palm	<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	Tall palm	Food plant
	Smooth-barked Apple	<i>Angophora costata</i>	Tree to 30m	Caterpillar feeds on foliage
	Cheese Tree	<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Tree to 10m	Food plant
	Coastal Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Tree to 6m	Food plant
	Koda	<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>	Tree 8-10m	Caterpillar feeds on flowers
	Wattles	<i>Acacia decurrens, A.falcata, A.longifolia, A.ulicifolia, A.melanoxylon, A.myrtifolia, A.sophorae, A.suaveolens, A.terminalis</i>	shrub-trees	Eggs are laid at the base of the food plant, near black ant nests.
	Red Ash	<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Tree 6-15m	

Number of plants	Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Habit	Life cycle
	Tuckeroo	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Spreading tree to 20m	Caterpillars eat new shoots at night.
	Hop Bush	<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Shrub to 3m	
	Gum trees	<i>Eucalyptus sp</i>	Tall trees	
	Black Wattle	<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>	Large shrub-tree 4-15m	Eastern Bronze Flat caterpillar food plant and it makes a hinged shelter from leaves
	Flintwood	<i>Scolopia braunii</i>	Tree 10-12m	
	Plum Pine	<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	Slow growing to 15m	
	Native Quince	<i>Alectryon subcinereus</i>	Tree 10-15m	
	Kurrajong	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Tree to 15 m	



Order Form

Group/School Name
Contact person
Budget
Funding source L4Y/other
Planting date
Delivery date
Special instructions
Dimensions of area to be planted



This project has been proudly supported by

