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# *Gardening for Native Pollinators*

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## Seven Easy Steps

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### **1. PLANT YOUR GARDEN IN FULL SUN.**

Native plants, especially flowering plants, need sun to make food for themselves and nectar for butterflies and bees. Butterflies also need sun to warm their bodies for flight.

### **2. PLANT POLLINATOR-ATTRACTING FLOWERS.**

Butterflies and bees are attracted to colorful flowers, where they drink sweet, energy-rich nectar. Select plants that are native to your area and they will attract local insects.

### **3. INCLUDE HOST PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN.**

Butterflies lay their eggs on host plants that the emerging caterpillars will eat. The sight of a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis will more than make up for the chewed leaves.

### **4. USE COLORFUL, NATIVE PLANTS.**

Butterflies and bees can see more colors than humans do. They seem to prefer red, orange, yellow, purple, and dark pink. A large, colorful garden is easy for butterflies to find and encourages them to stay longer.

### **5. DON'T USE CHEMICAL PESTICIDES.**

Pesticides kill butterflies, caterpillars and other useful insects. Try these methods instead: plant marigolds, petunias, tansy, and other herbs that naturally repel pests. Encourage ladybugs and dragonflies to dine in your garden. Wash pests away with insecticidal soap.

### **6. LEARN ABOUT NATIVE BUTTERFLIES.**

Each butterfly has a favorite nectar plant and needs a specific host plant where it will lay eggs. Learn about local butterflies so you can provide the right match of plants to make your garden a popular hangout.

### **7. ENJOY!**

You've set the stage, now watch the show. You won't be disappointed!