

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR GARDEN

Butterfly Facts

- ✓ **70 species** of butterfly have been recorded on Vancouver Island.
- ✓ The great majority of local butterflies are **non-migratory** and are here all year as either eggs, larvae, pupae, or adults.
- ✓ Butterflies spend a good part of their life as a caterpillar and need plants that the caterpillars eat (**host plants**). These are usually the plants that the adult butterflies lay their eggs on.
- ✓ Butterflies will usually **nectar** on a variety of species.
- ✓ Some butterflies rarely visit flowers, preferring mud, dung, sap, and rotten fruit

Butterfly Gardens

- ✓ A good butterfly garden can host all the lifecycle phases (eggs, larvae, pupae, or adults) so **includes host and nectar plants**.
- ✓ Butterflies prefer sun so plan your butterfly garden for a **sunny spot**.
- ✓ Plant a diversity of native plants for a **succession** of flowering times to provide nectar all season long.

Did You Know?

Ten different local butterflies preferentially lay their eggs on either Oceanspray or Stinging Nettle!



From left to Right: Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and Satyr Anglewing butterflies *only* lay their eggs on Stinging Nettle

What's the Story with the Monarchs?

It often comes as a surprise that Victoria is not home to Monarch Butterflies.

Very occasionally a Monarch is spotted, but they are only rare visitors and do not breed on Vancouver Island. There are several Swallowtail species that are often confused with the Monarch.



Monarch butterflies are a beautiful species, but are not native to Vancouver Island

Milkweed (an important host plant for Monarchs within their breeding range) is not a native plant on Vancouver Island.

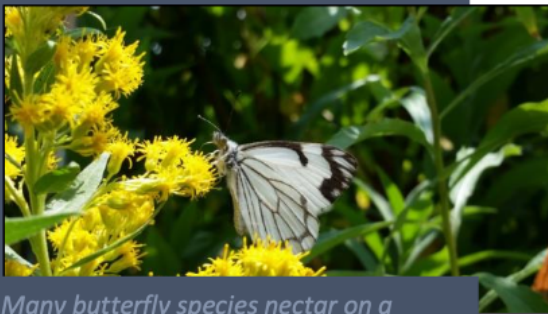
The good news is that there are plenty of beautiful native butterflies that we can encourage by planting native species!



Western Tiger Swallowtail nectaring on Mock Orange.

12 Common Butterflies of the Victoria Area and Their Host Plants

Anise Swallowtail	Plants in the Carrot family like Spring Gold and especially Barestem Desert-parsley
Grey Hairstreak	Plants in the Pea family (e.g. <i>Vicia</i> , <i>Lathyrus</i>) as well as Salal and Pearly Everlasting
Lorquin's Admiral	Large trees and shrubs in the rose family like Oceanspray, Saskatoon Berry and many more. Other plants include Willows, Black Cottonwood, and Trembling Aspen
Mourning Cloak	Willows, Black Cottonwood, and Trembling Aspen
Painted Lady	Woolly Sunflower, Lupines, Pearly Everlasting and Native thistles (<i>Cirsium brevistylum</i> , <i>C. edule</i>)
Pale Swallowtail	Alder and Oceanspray
Pine white	Trees in the Pine family like Douglas-fir, Shore Pine and Lodgepole Pine
Red Admiral	Stinging Nettle
Satyr Anglewing	Stinging Nettle
Woodland Skipper	Grasses, usually tall broad-leaved ones like California Brome and Blue Wildrye
Western Tiger Swallowtail	Large trees and shrubs in the rose family like Oceanspray, Saskatoon Berry and many more. Other plants include Willows, Black Cottonwood, and Trembling Aspen.
Western Spring Azure	Oceanspray, Dogwood (<i>Cornus</i> spp.), and Hardhack



Many butterfly species nectar on a variety of plants, but lay their eggs on a select few. This Pine White is drinking nectar from Canada Goldenrod, but its caterpillars only eat needles from trees in the Pine Family

Recommended Nectar Plants

- Broad-leaved Stonecrop
- Canada Goldenrod
- Douglas' Aster
- Great and Common Camas
- Gumweed
- Pearly Everlasting
- Sea Blush
- Spring Gold
- Wild Strawberry
- Woolly Sunflower
- Yarrow
- Mock Orange
- Shrubs in the Rose Family