

## **BUTTERFLY GARDENS**

Besides being beautiful & fascinating to watch, butterflies play an important role in nature's plan by carrying pollen from plant to plant. Because their local habitat is decreasing due to population growth, increased building, pollution and the use of pesticides, butterfly gardens are an increasingly popular way for humans to please themselves while helping the environment.

## **Butterfly Basics**

**Egg** (Ovum) ~ *the first stage of a butterfly's life*

**Larva** ~ *the second stage of a butterfly's life*

**Pupa** (Chrysalis) ~ *the third stage of a butterfly's life*

**Metamorphosis** ~ *the series of changes butterflies go through in their life cycle*

**Frass** ~ *caterpillar droppings*

**Tarsi** ~ *a butterfly's feet, used for tasting*

**Antennae** ~ *sensory organs on a butterfly's head, used to detect scents and wind speed*

**Mandibles** ~ *jaws*

**Proboscis** ~ *a butterfly's tube-like mouth*

**Palps** ~ *mustache-like mouthparts on each side of a butterfly's proboscis*

**Diapause** ~ *a form of butterfly hibernation during cold periods or when food supplies are low*

**Mimicry** ~ *to ward off predators, butterflies can use a variety of adaptations to mimic something they are not*

**Pollination** ~ *the act of carrying pollen from plant to plant, necessary for seed fertilization*

**Basking** ~ *butterflies rest in the sun, usually with open wings, to warm themselves*

**Puddling** ~ *butterflies group at the wet edge of sandy areas or mud puddles to feast on nutrients not found in flowers*

**Patrolling** ~ *butterflies fly over a specific area in search of mates*

**Perching** ~ *butterflies place themselves on tall plants or other high places to search out mates*

**A Swarm or A Rabble** ~ *two terms often used to describe a group of many butterflies*