

# 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

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



## 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