

Butterfly Bushes - Buddleia

Everyone enjoys seeing beautiful butterflies fluttering around their garden during the summer months. One of the easiest ways to attract butterflies to your garden is by planting a shrub known as Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*). Many species of butterflies feed on the nectar in the blooms and it is even possible that a hummingbird might visit. Butterfly bush blooms are pink, purple, white, red, yellow or blue depending on the cultivar you choose to plant. The 6-18" spikes bloom from July into September providing you with countless hours of enjoyment watching the butterflies feed on the flowers.

Growing Butterfly Bushes

Butterfly bushes thrive in areas of full sun and a moist, well-drained soil. They can grow to a height of 7'-8' tall, but also can be easily maintained at 4'-5' in height with a 3'-4' spread. By pruning the bush to about 12" above the ground in late fall or early spring, you will see it rapidly grow to 3'-4' tall by blooming time. This method of pruning encourages shorter, denser growth and more blooms than by not pruning. Because butterfly bushes bloom on the current season's growth, they should not be pruned after growth has started in the spring. Additionally, dead flower spikes should be pruned off during the blooming period. This will encourage the development of side shoots with more blooms and will help extend the blooming period into September.

Plants should be fertilized in April and again in October with a 5-10-10 or 5-10-5 granular fertilizer. By following these steps, you are guaranteed to have butterflies visiting your garden.

Stauffers' Best Buddleias

- Adonis Blue - Large, deep blue flowers, compact bushy habit.
- Black Knight - Prolific heavy bloomer; dark purple flower spikes.
- Lochinch - Soft lavender-blue flowers and superb silver foliage.
- Nanho Blue - Blue flowers above silvery foliage, compact habit.
- Nanho Purple - Purple flowers above silvery foliage, compact habit.
- Peacock Pink - Brilliant pink blossoms, compact habit.
- Pink Delight - Large pink flower trusses all summer.
- Purple Emperor - Mauve/purple flowers and narrow foliage, very compact habit.
- White Profusion - Pure white flower spikes all summer, nice compact habit.

Planting Instructions

- Dig hole 2 times larger than diameter of pot and as deep as the pot.
- Prepare planting mixture: 1/3 topsoil and 2/3 Stauffers Premium Planting Mix.
- Fill extra depth of hole with soil mixture and tamp firmly to eliminate settling after the bush is planted.
- Remove the plant from the container. “Scoring” the root ball with your fingers or a sharp tool will loosen the fine roots.
- Place plant in the hole with top of root ball level or 1” above ground level. Fill hole 1/2 full with soil mix and tamp firmly to prevent air pockets.
- Soak thoroughly several times. After water soaks away, finish back filling to soil level with soil mix. (shrubs planted too deep will result in death)
- Spread a fine layer of mulch around the shrub being sure not to cover-up branches or pile against stems. Create a small basin with mulch around the edge of the hole to retain water.
- Fill basin with water several times, soaking plant thoroughly.
- Apply a root stimulator to the base of the plant as per the manufacturer’s recommendations. Apply monthly during the growing season to encourage a healthy deep root system.
- Water newly installed plants every 2-4 days for the first month, by placing a hose at the base of the plant, letting it trickle slowly until saturated. This is preferable over shallow watering every day. (Be careful of over watering when planting in heavy clay soils!) Deep roots are developed by deep watering. Continue deep watering every 1-2 weeks, depending on rainfall amounts, for the first year until the ground freezes for the winter. (Remember if a plant looks like it needs water, it is often too late!)