

What butterflies like!

A sunny location, sheltered from winds.

Light-colored rocks placed in areas with morning sun for basking.

Males of some species congregate around shallow puddles or damp sand or gravel.

Some species are attracted to smelly food sources: stale beer, bird feeders with cut-up fruit, or even manure may draw them!

What kind of flowers do they like?

Colorful, fragrant flowers in shapes that they can get nectar from.

They feed with a long tongue (proboscis) which they use to reach the nectar far inside tubular flowers.

Plants that attract hummingbirds often attract butterflies.

Multiple tubular flowers in clusters and larger petals they can alight on.

They have compound eyes and can see color, but are near-sighted and respond best to large splashes of color.

If you have room, plant large blocks of flowers in the same color range. Annuals from seed are an economical way to do this: a pack of Cosmos seed will plant 10- 20 feet, and bloom all summer.

Which colors do they like?

Blue-green apparently doesn't attract them.

Various species respond to the pink – purple range, others like red, orange, and even white.

"Nectar guides" in the form of visually contrasting colors on the petals will steer them towards some flowers, but we humans often don't see those as they are in the ultraviolet spectrum.

Which types of plants?

A mix of types that bloom spring through fall. Include some shrubs, lots of perennials, and big patches of seasonal annuals.