

Plant Care and Butterfly/Caterpillar Identification, Butterfly-Hummingbird Garden, Bath Community Center

Bath Alpha Garden Club

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Introduction

This book is intended to provide guidance for the care of the plants, and help in identifying butterflies and caterpillars, in the Bath Alpha Garden Club Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden at the Bath Community Center.

*No insecticides should be used.

*Nectar plants were included for butterflies and hummingbirds.

*Host plants were included to provide food for caterpillars. Do not destroy them.

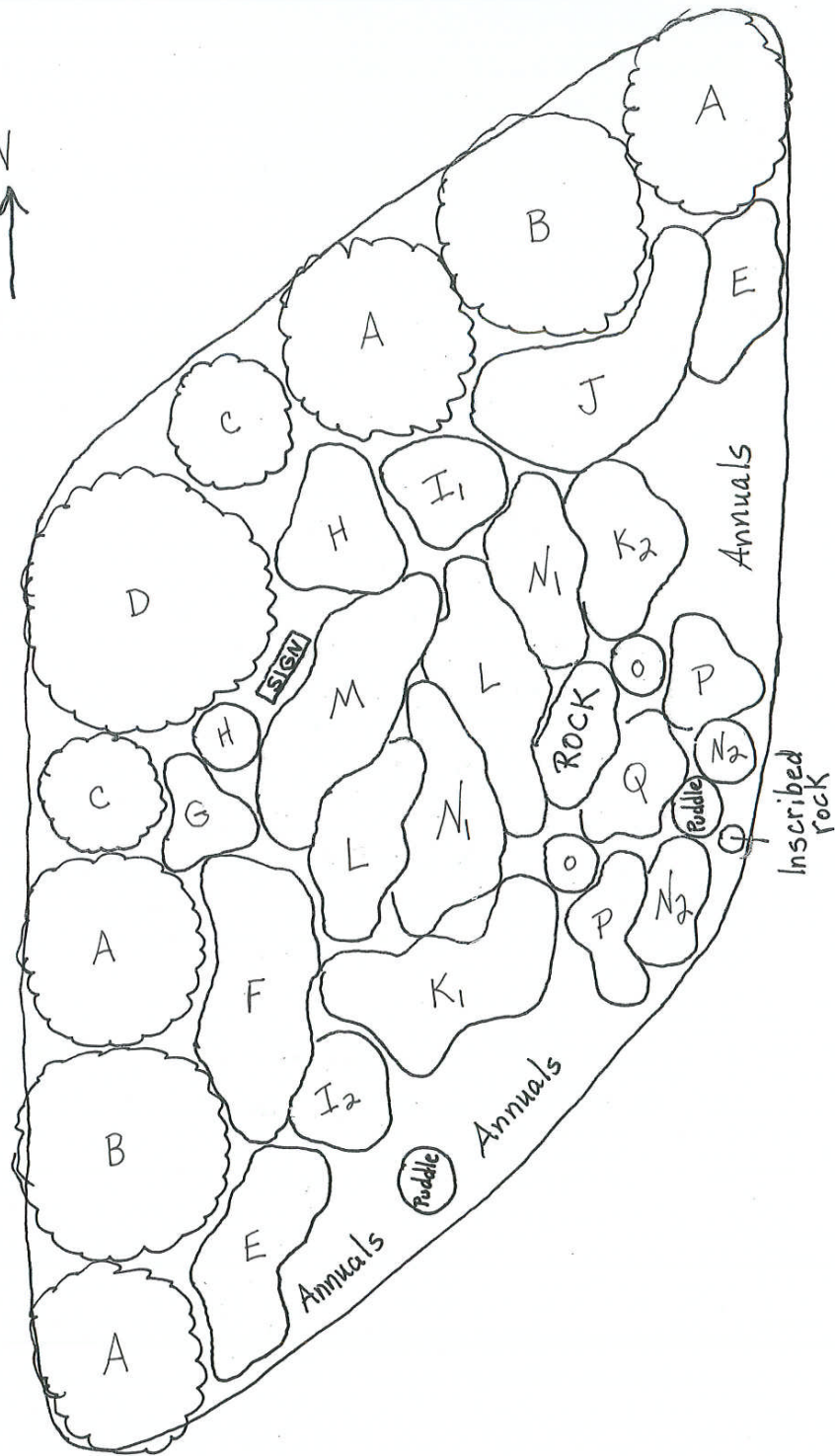
*Dead flowers and unsightly leaves/stalks should only be removed if they do not include butterfly eggs, larvae, cocoons, or chrysalis.

*Dry flower heads may provide seeds for other birds to eat.

The members of Bath Alpha Garden Club, and the Landscape Committee, hope this garden will benefit wildlife, and provide enjoyment to the members of our community for many years.

Map Key

- A. Butterfly Bush
- B. Wegelia 'Varigata'
- C. Joe Pye Weed
- D. Lilac 'Miss Canada'
- E. Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
- F. Purple Coneflower 'Magnus'
- G. Foxglove
- H. Hyssop
- I1. Yarrow 'Coronation Gold'
- I2. Yarrow 'Moonshine'
- J. Bee Balm 'Jacob Cline'
- K1. Aster 'Purple Dome'
- K2. Aster
- L. Liatris 'Kobold'
- M. Butterfly Weed
- N1. Coreopsis 'Golden Shower'
- N2. Coreopsis 'Moonbeam'
- O. Pearly Everlasting 'New Snow'
- P. Salvia
- Q. Beardtongue



Annuals

Candytuft

Cosmos

Impatiens

Mexican Sunflower

Nicotiana

Parsley, Host plant for Black Swallowtail caterpillar

Pentas

Snapdragon, Host plant for Buckeye caterpillar

Spider Flower or Beeplant, Host plant for Checkered White caterpillar

Verbena, Host plant for the Buckeye caterpillar

Zinnia

Host plants should be in the garden every year, although some will reseed themselves. Some of the others should also be included, but the selection may vary from year to year.

Candytuft

Iberis Umbellata



Blooms spring-summer

**Trim faded flower clusters to prolong bloom
or allow to reseed.**

Cosmos



Blooms - summer

Allow to reseed.

Clean up dead foliage after frost.

Impatiens

Impatiens walleriana



Huge variety of size and color available in this shade or semi-shade plant. Blooms from late spring until frost in all kinds of weather, but does not like to be wet or cold. Varieties for sun are also available.

Mexican Sunflower

Tithonia rotundifolia



Tithonia Fiesta del Sol

Blooms – Beginning mid-july. Ht. 28-30”

Clean up spent foliage after frost.

Nicotiana

Flowering Tobacco



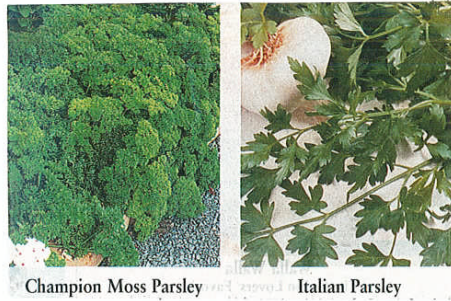
Blooms – summer Ht. 12-36”

Will self-sow freely.

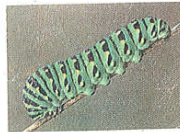
Clean up dead foliage & stems after frost.

Parsley

Petroselinum, any variety



Parsley is a biennial, which means it lives two years. It blooms the second year, and will reseed. The seedlings should be allowed to grow wherever they are, unless they are seriously interfering with another plant. Parsley needs no special care.



Parsley is a host plant for the Black Swallowtail caterpillar. The caterpillar changes in appearance as it develops, with the earliest stages resembling bird droppings. The mature stage, with some color variations, is shown above.

Pentas

Pentas lanceolata, several cultivars



Pentas are available in various colors, including white, lavender, pink, and red. They are all excellent nectar flowers for butterflies, and the redder tones also attract hummingbirds. *Pentas* are not hardy in Ohio, so must be grown as annuals. Pinching will promote branching and more flowering.

Snapdragon

Antirrhinum majus, any cultivar



Snapdragons are annuals, and need no special care, although deadheading will prolong bloom.

Care must be taken when deadheading that eggs, caterpillars, and cocoons, are not removed. Snapdragons will reseed, and do not need to be pulled out unless they are crowding other plants. Dead plants can be removed in late fall.



The caterpillar of the Buckeye Butterfly feeds on many plants, including snapdragons. This butterfly also gets nutrients from mud puddles.

SPIDER FLOWER or BEEPLANT

Cleome hassleriana-any cultivar



Annuals, no special care needed. They will reseed, and can be pulled out if they are crowding other plants, or are much taller than surrounding plants



Checkered white



Checkered White (*Pieris protodice*)

Checkered White caterpillars feed on this plant. Pupae can overwinter, so be careful about discarding dead plant material. The chrysalis is blue-gray with black speckles.

Verbena

Verbena bonariensis, v. *x hybrida* many cultivars



Verbena x hybrida



Verbena bonariensis

Verbena x hybrida cultivars are excellent low, spreading ground covers. They are available in many colors. *V. bonariensis* is a tall growing plant. They all have a long blooming period, and are heat and drought tolerant. No special care is needed.

Verbenas are host plants for the Buckeye butterfly, which also feeds on Snapdragons.

Zinnia

Profusion



Blooms – Summer Ht. 12-15"

Little or no deadheading necessary

Remove dead plants after frost.

Perennials

Allium

Arabis

Aster, (K1, K2), Host for Pearl Crescent caterpillar

Beardtongue, (Q)

Bee Balm, (J)

Butterfly Bush, (A)

Butterfly Weed, (M), Host for Monarch caterpillar

Columbine

Coreopsis, (N1, N2)

Foxglove, (G)

Hyssop, (H)

Joe Pye Weed, (C)

Lamium, Host for Red Admiral, Eastern Comma, and

Question Mark caterpillars

Liatris, (L)

Lilac, (D)

Pearly Everlasting, (O), Host for American Painted Lady caterpillar

Purple Coneflower, (F)

Salvia, (P)

Sedum, (E), Host for Varigated Fritillary caterpillar

Violet, Host for Buckeye caterpillar

Weigela, (B)

Yarrow, (I1,I2)

Plants without letters do not have specific places on the plant map. They should be allowed to grow wherever they appear, as long as they are not crowding out the plants assigned to that space.

Allium



Blooms – late spring to early summer.

Foliage (appearing grass-like the first year then strap-like by the third year will die down

Globes can remain to reseed or clean up as desired

Arabis

Rock cress

Cruciferae albida



A large genus, but most species are too invasive for the garden. Loose clusters of white flowers on short stems 6-9 inches long. Forms a large mat. Requires full sun.

Aster

Aster novae-angliae 'Purple Dome,' and unknown



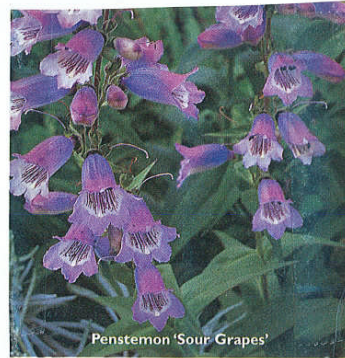
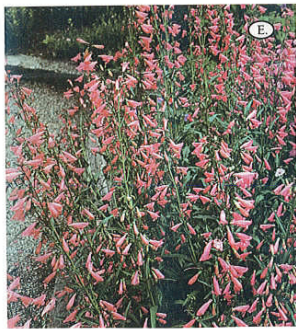
Asters flower in the fall, and do not need much care. Purple Dome is about 2' tall and will not fall over; taller types can be cut back 1/2-2/3 in early-mid June. Lower leaves may die due to dry weather. Clumps will expand by underground rhizomes, and can be divided if they get too large.



Asters are a host plant for the Pearl Crescent caterpillar. Young larvae feed as a group. As they get bigger, they move out and become solitary feeders. When mature they are dark brown or black, with yellow stripes on each side, yellow spots on top, and brownish-yellow spines. Male Pearl Crescent butterflies are very territorial, and will defend their area. They have been known to fly at humans!

Beard Tongue Penstemon

Scrophulariaceae



A very large genus of herbaceous perennials, most native to North America. Colorful tubular flowers form close to the stem in spikes 12-24 inches tall. Requires well-drained soil and sun. Will not flourish in poor conditions. Dead heading will produce a second flush of bloom. (see back)

Beard Tongue Penstemon (Continued)

PENSTEMON (Beardtongue)

An essential plant in any xeriscape, *Penstemon* are unsurpassed in attracting hummingbirds to your garden. For beginners, we recommend growing a few of the easier species like Rocky Mountain Beardtongue (*P. strictus*), Pineleaf Beardtongue (*P. pinifolius*) and the beautiful *Penstemon* 'Elfin Pink'.

Because many *Penstemon* are adapted to grow in harsh Western habitats, it is important to keep a few cultural considerations in mind when bringing them into our gardens:

1. **Plant only in well-drained soils;** wet clay soils and *Penstemon* aren't compatible. Avoid overly enriched soils; too much compost can shorten their life span. (See p. 40 for details on "Proper Soil Preparation".)
2. **Plant high,** leaving the top of the rootball just above the surrounding soil to avoid burying the crown of the plant.
3. **Avoid bark, grass clippings or compost as mulch materials.** These mulches are detrimental to healthy Beardtongues. They will cause disease in wet, cold weather. It is better to leave them non-mulched or use gravel.
4. **Allow to re-seed.** *Penstemon* will sometimes live for only 2 or 3 years (e.g., *P. palmeri*). To keep them going, allow some of the plants to set seed (don't deadhead them). The volunteer seedlings will be more vigorous and longer lived than the original parent plant.
5. **Fertilize sparingly.** Beardtongues like "tough love" and need only to be fertilized once each year in the fall. Apply a light application of an organic or natural fertilizer. Yum Yum Mix (p. 40) is an excellent fertilizer for *Penstemon* and other native plants. It has a high trace mineral and phosphorus content while being low in nitrogen.

Bee Balm

Jacob Cline

Monarda



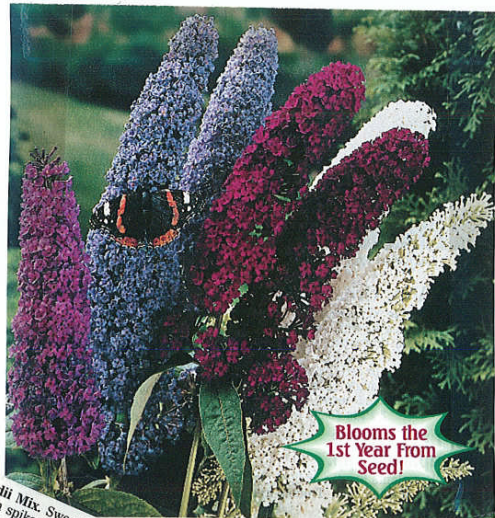
**Member of mint family.
Blooms July – August Ht. – 36-48”**

Remove dead foliage & stems after frost.

Divide every 3-4 years to rejuvenate.

Butterfly Bush

Buddleia davidii



0348—*B. davidii* Mix. Sweetly scented blossoms on 12-inch spikes bloom from summer till fall, and grow easily from seed. Blooms first year if started early. Flowers on new wood, so prune each spring. Pruned to 10 inches, plants grow 6 to 8 feet in the sunny garden in one season. White, lilac, and deep pink. Zones 5-9. Pkt is 100 seeds.

Mix (*B. davidii*)

Tall shrub that grows up to 10 feet with long racemes up to 2 feet in shades of pink, purple, white and yellow. Attracts butterflies and humming birds. Should be pruned back hard in spring, cutting out old dead wood from the past year. Plant in full sun in well-drained soil.

Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa



A member of the milkweed family, this plant is an important nectar source for many varieties of butterflies. It is frequently late to emerge in the spring, and doesn't need pruning or deadheading. Dead stalks can be left until spring to mark the plant location.



Milkweeds are the ONLY food source for the caterpillar of the Monarch butterfly.

Columbine

**Aquilegia canadensis
and
other cultivars**



Blooms – early spring Ht. 1-3 ft.

Spent flower heads can be allowed to go to seed and plants cut down for neatness at end of season.

Coreopsis

Tickweed Compositae



COREOPSIS — Plants with Sunny Dispositions
Blooming all summer in profusion, Coreopsis is ideal for the perennial border and cutting. **CULTURE:** One of the easiest perennials to grow, it thrives with little care in sun or light shade and normal soil. Pest- and disease-free. Plant 10 to 12 inches apart. Remove spent blooms.
B) C. verticillata 'Moonbeam' — One of the greatest perennials! Creamy-yellow blooms on 1½- to 2-foot plants with airy, ferny foliage. Mildew-resistant. Zones 3-9. #1 bare-root.

A bounty of blooms over a long season- summer well into fall. Tough and long-lived, it tolerates heat and drought. Dead-heading promotes rebloom. Moonbeam is a creamy yellow and Golden Shower a deep rich yellow.

Foxglove

Digitalis



Digitalis laevigata



Apricot Strain



Excelsior strain

FOXGLOVE, Digitalis
 Easily grown in part shade in the South or sun in the North; bears large, trumpet-shaped flowers.
D. x mertonensis. The Strawberry Foxglove.
PERENNIAL. Richly-colored 2 1/2-inch blossoms on 3-foot spikes are the color of crushed strawberries! Blooms in late spring and early summer. Basal foliage is often evergreen. Space 12 to 15 inches apart. Zones 4-9.
 Pkt is 100 seeds.

Perennials or biennials originating in Europe. Tall spikes of tubular flowers in shades of pink, purple, yellow and apricot. Grow in either sun or partial shade in rich, well-drained moist soil. Most forms are short lived. Dead heading will produce a second bloom.

Hyssop

Labiatae officinale



Blue flowers with semi evergreen leaves – aromatic in nature. Likes light dry soil and full sun.

HYSOPP (Continued)

AGASTACHE

(ah-gah'stah-kee)

Agastache

Lamiaceae

This genus of about 30 aromatic species is native to central and eastern Asia, Mexico, and the United States. Careful breeding and selection have given us newcomers that offer exceptional garden performance and a long season of bloom. In full sun and well-drained soil, they happily shrug off both summer heat and early frosts. Bareroot, except as noted.

A. 'Blue Fortune' S20970. Robust 'Blue Fortune' is a mass of soft powder-blue flower spikes from July onwards, making it a magnet for butterflies and admiring visitors alike. The well-branched stems are a great addition to bouquets.

ZONES 5-9S/10W JUL-OCT HT36-48" SP15" ○
each \$9.25, 3 \$27.25, 6 \$53.25

A. 'Firebird' S20980. During the dog days of summer, 'Firebird' produces long-lasting blooms that range from a coppery orange to a glowing coral-pink over delicate, almost airy, fragrant gray-green foliage. A hard-to-find combination. Pot-grown.

ZONES 5-9S/10W JUL-OCT HT24-30" SP12" ○



Agastache 'Blue Fortune'



Agastache 'Firebird'

Joe-Pye Weed

Eupatorium purpureum

EUPATORIUM

(yew-puh-tor-ee-um)

A genus of about 40 species, most of them native to the eastern United States. They have long been grown where the garden meets the wild. Recent interest in native plants has encouraged the selection of more garden-worthy specimens and holds the promise of more to come. Pot-grown.

Boneset
Asteraceae

E. maculatum 'Gateway' S28937. This is a superior selection of *E. maculatum*, which is one of several species commonly known as Joe Pye Weed. Its reddish purple flowers form large, showy heads on 5-6ft, wine-colored stems. Butterflies love it.

ZONES 4-7S/10W AUG-SEP HT60-72" SP24"



Joe-Pye Gateway — Showy from midsummer to winter's end!

One of the most versatile native U.S. plants, this bushy plant grows up to 5 feet tall with huge flower heads in shades of pink, lilac and purple. Blooms in late summer in full sun to part shade.

Lamium or Dead Nettle

Lamium maculatum, any variety



Lamiums are low growing, spreading ground covers, with variegated foliage. Flower colors vary according to variety. It prefers partial sun.



Red Admiral caterpillars feed on Lamium. Young caterpillars live in a shelter made of a folded leaf, while older ones make a nest of several leaves held together by silk. Cocoons vary in color from gray-brown to red-brown, with black markings and golden bumps. Adult butterflies will feed on fermenting fruit.

Lamium continued

Eastern Comma and Question Mark larvae also feed on Lamium.



summer form, dorsal



fall and spring form, dorsal



The Eastern Comma gets its name from the silver "comma" shaped marking on the under side of the lower wing. They vary in color from spring to fall. Its caterpillars also vary in color, from black to green-brown and white. Spine colors go from black to white. Mature caterpillars feed at night, and hide under leaves whose edges have been drawn together with silk. Their chrysalis are gray or brown with two rows of gold or silver projections.



fall form



fall form

The Question mark butterfly gets its name from the silver "question mark" on the under side of its lower wing. This butterfly will feed on rotting fruit. The caterpillar is extremely variable in color. The body can be black to yellow, sometimes with red or yellow irregular stripes along the sides. Bumps on the back can go from yellow to red, and spines from yellow to red-orange. The pupae varies from yellow to dark brown, and has metallic silver spots.

Liatris Spicata

Kobold



Blooms – June into early August

**If spent flowering stems are cut before frost
– leave 2/3 of the stem for plant food
production.**

Remove dead stems after frost.

Lilac

Miss Canada

Syringa prestonia



Grows to a small spreading tree 10-12 ft.

Sporadic blooms all summer

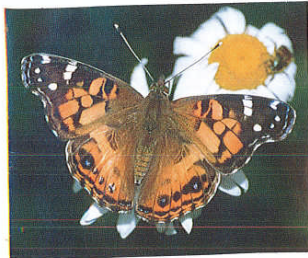
Prune out dead wood.

PEARLY EVERLASTING

Anaphalis margaritacea 'New Snow'



Pearly Everlasting spreads by underground stems to form clumps. Divide every 3-4 years in late fall or early spring, if necessary. Dead stalks may be cut back at these times. Established plants are drought tolerant, but may lose lower leaves in dry weather.



Pearly Everlasting is a host plant for the caterpillars of the American Painted Lady butterfly. Young caterpillars live and feed in a nest of leaves tied together with silk. Older caterpillars abandon the nest. The chrysalis is brown during the first few days, but changes to gray, marked with brown vertical stripes. The chrysalis can also be golden green marked with purple-brown.

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea Magnus



Blooms – Mid to late summer Ht. 3-4 ft.

**Clean up dead stems and foliage after frost
or leave seed heads for birds until spring.**

Divide every 3-4yrs. in spring to rejuvenate.

Salvia Sage

Labiatae



Salvia 'May Night'



Salvia 'Rose Wine'

S. nemorosa 'Rose Wine' S37622. The pink version of 'May Night', producing spike after spike of rose-pink blooms all summer. It offers fresh possibilities for perennial combinations. Pot-grown.

ZONES 4-7S/10W MAY-AUG HT18" SP15" ○
each \$9.25, 3 \$26.25, 6 \$49.95

S. × sylvestris 'May Night' S37620. This long bloomer provides gardeners with the deepest, darkest violet-blue flowers to be found among the perennial Sages, and it blooms from May into August. It's little wonder this plant is in such great demand, or that visitors take 'May Night' home once they've seen it in our borders. Bareroot and pot-grown.

ZONES 4-7S/10W MAY-AUG HT18-24" SP15" ○

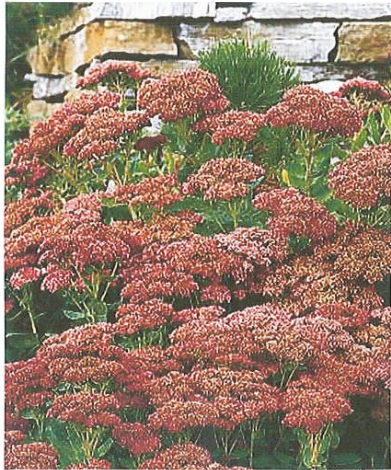
'East Friesland' Salvia, below, is an easy-to-grow perennial. Sometimes called meadow sage, it blooms beginning in June and reaches 18 inches tall.



Only a few perennials in this genus are hardy, but the ones that are provide spikes of densely packed flowers in shades of blue, pink and purple. Salvia has a long bloom period, and it does well in hot dry areas. All plants prefer sun and good drainage. Dead heading may produce a lighter second bloom.

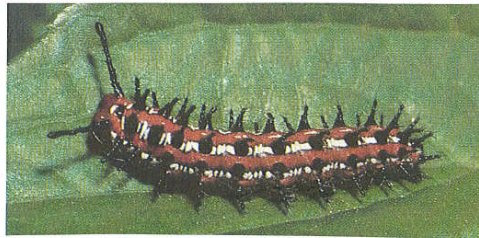
SEDUM

Sedum spectabile 'Autumn Joy'



Sedum 'Autumn Joy' can be pinched back by half for height control when stalks get 8 inches tall, if desired. This may delay flowering slightly. It does not need to be deadheaded. Old flower stalks should be cut off in spring.

Sedum is a host plant for the caterpillars of the Variegated Fritillary butterfly, as is violet. The chrysalis is an iridescent pearly white, with dark brown patches and points.



Violet

Viola, any variety



Violets don't need any special care. They are low, spring flowering plants that will increase by creeping stems and reseeding. Pull them out if they become invasive.

Larvae of three Fritillaries feed on violets, including the Variegated Fritillary, which also feeds on sedum.

Great Spangled Fritillary larvae feed on violets. The larvae hatch in the fall, and overwinter without feeding. They emerge in spring, and feed at night, resting off the plant during the day. The male butterflies usually emerge in June, the females about a month later.



Meadow Fritillary caterpillars also feed on violets. The mature caterpillar is shiny green with a fuzzy band along the sides. Spines and bumps on the top are yellow-brown. This caterpillar also overwinters, and matures into a butterfly the following year.

Weigela



After flowering, prune branches that have bloomed back to unflowered side branches.

Prune out older branches and dead wood.

Yarrow

Coronation Gold & Moonshine

Achillea filipendulina



Blooms June-July

Coronation Gold 3 ft. - Moonshine 1 ½ ft.

Remove dead foliage & stems after frost.

Divide every 3-4 years to rejuvenate.