



[Printable Garden Plan]

# Create a No-Fuss Bird & Butterfly Garden



## Plant List

1.) Catmint	5.) Anise Hyssop	9.) New England Aster
2.) Sedum	6.) Bee Balm	10.) Joe Pye Weed
3.) Butterfly Weed	7.) Meadow Blazing Star	11.) Butterfly Bush
4.) Black Eyed Susan	8.) Purple Coneflower	

# Step-by-Step Guide to Creating a Bird & Butterfly Garden

Attracting birds and butterflies to your yard is a delightful way to enjoy these beautiful creatures up close while also supporting the local ecosystem. Follow this step-by-step plan to create an inviting oasis for birds and butterflies in your own backyard.

## Step 1: Choose a Suitable Location

Birds and butterflies need a mix of sunny and sheltered areas. Select a spot that receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day for nectar-rich flowers, but also includes some shady spots for shelter from strong winds and predators.

## Step 2: Prepare the Soil

Remove grass and weeds, and loosen the soil to a depth of 12-18 inches. Mix in compost to enrich the soil and improve drainage. Good soil health is essential for strong plant growth.

## Step 3: Plan Your Design

Sketch out your garden layout, keeping taller plants like Joe Pye Weed and Hollyhock in the back, and shorter ones like Catmint and Salvia in front. Group plants with similar colors together in clumps for visual impact. Include flat stones for butterflies to bask on and a birdbath for a water source.

## Step 4: Select and Purchase Plants

Choose a variety of native flowers, shrubs, and grasses that provide nectar for adult butterflies, food for caterpillars, seeds for birds, and shelter. Some top plant choices from the provided plan include:

- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
- Aster (*Symphyotrichum* species)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* species)

- Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium species)
- Milkweed (Asclepias species)
- Coreopsis (Coreopsis species)
- Sedum (Sedum species)
- Catmint (Nepeta species)
- Salvia (Salvia species)

Aim for continuous bloom from spring through fall and include a mix of annuals and perennials to provide food throughout the seasons.

## Step 5: Plant Your Garden

Arrange plants while still in their pots until you're satisfied with the layout. Dig holes twice as wide as the root balls. Remove plants from pots, loosen roots, and place in holes. Fill in with soil and water well. Mulch around plants to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

## Step 6: Add Finishing Touches

Place flat stones in sunny spots for butterfly basking. Include a birdbath with shallow edges or a fountain with a gentle drip. Avoid using pesticides and herbicides which can harm birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

## Step 7: Maintain Your Garden

Water plants regularly until established. Remove dead flower heads to encourage repeat blooming. Allow some flower heads to go to seed to provide food for birds. Leave some areas a bit untidy for shelter. Cut back plants in late fall or early spring.

With the right mix of native plants and some thoughtful design, your bird and butterfly garden will soon be buzzing and fluttering with activity. Enjoy the lively scene as you provide vital habitat for these important creatures.



