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January 2002
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Create a Butterfly Garden

S. Lamb, S. Chambers, and N. Allen

Butterflies are some of the most beautiful, fragile animals in nature, sometimes called “flying flowers.” Butterflies and moths pollinate flowers, and both adults and larvae are an important food source for birds, bats, and other wildlife. Nearly 700 kinds or **species** occur in North America. About 20 species commonly are found in the Pacific Northwest.

Attracting butterflies to your yard and garden is easy if you create a habitat that meets the butterflies’ needs for growth and development. Butterfly larvae, or caterpillars, eat leaves. Adult butterflies feed on nectar from colorful, fragrant flowers. Putting in the right plants for both of these increases your chances of attracting and keeping butterflies in your garden. Suitable habitat also includes shelter from wind and

