

THE POTTING SHED

Consider these plants to bring butterflies to your garden

Butterflies definitely have their favorite “haunts.” So, which flowers and shrubs should you plant?

Although the calendar reminds us of summer or fall, there are long-blooming flowers that keep going until first frost. It’s these recommended flowers that attract butterflies. It’s key to keep these flowers blooming as long as possible to assist butterflies later in the season. Because of the long migration south, the awesome monarchs still require good nectar to fuel their journeys.

It’s been documented that some monarchs begin flight as early as late July, but many are still passing through our yards in late October or even early November.

The choice of “butterfly-friendly” plants is mind boggling, so I listed the hardiest plants you can find – and they happen to be gorgeous at the same time! Late-season color is imperative in order to attract butterflies, and sometimes this proves to be a challenge since a lot of the summer flowers begin to flounder and die away near season’s end.

Mindy Delano is a life-long gardener and foodie with a sense of humor and a passion for teaching and sharing her experiences. She serves as horticulture chair of the Garden Club of Dearborn and is the recipient of numerous recognition awards regarding her home and garden.

Please take a look at the Garden Club’s website at www.gardenclubdearborn.org for more information throughout the months. Have a great summer. Enjoy the flowers along Michigan Avenue in west Dearborn and at Henry Ford Centennial Library. The Garden Club of Dearborn meets at noon the second Mondays of September through May at the First Presbyterian Church on North Brady.



This annual has a variation on blooms and butterflies love them.



Be vigilant on deadheading the plants to keep them going until the first frost.



This 7-foot-tall perennial deserves a spot in the back of the garden. Blooms are medium pink with unusual leaves that give off the scent of vanilla.



Big and beautiful, it's a rising star in the garden.



Beauty in pink, white, red and purple. This plant lasts until the fall.



Seed-lovers munch on these happy-faced flowers that last into the fall.



Serves as a perfect filler and is a butterfly magnet.



A pop of fall color, they provide great nectar. With flowers that wane in the fall, these are the ideal solution.



If you can only choose one, select this plant first because birds, bees and butterflies love it. Don't deadhead it in the fall so birds can dine on the seeds.