

# BUTTERFLY FEEDERS FOR YOUR GARDEN



GROWING THE FUTURE  
TYFWR DYFODOL

This year the **Big Butterfly Count** runs from Friday July 17 - Sunday August 9 2020. Why not get involved and make some feeders to see how many different species can be seen? You'll also be helping wildlife in your garden!



## SIMPLE FLOWER BUTTERFLY FEEDER

Make several of these simple flower butterfly feeders. Place them in pots or in the garden near each other, in a sunny spot to attract the butterflies. Keep putting the flowers out in the garden for at least a week to attract the butterflies to the garden before taking part in the [Big Butterfly Count](#). At the National Botanic Garden of Wales, PhD student Abigail Lowe also explains how you can [get started with recording wildlife in your garden](#), where you can download our useful [Butterfly ID checklist](#).

### You will need:

- A simple template of a flower drawn on card or empty cereal packet 18cm diameter
- Coloured pens, pencils
- Scrunched up coloured tissue paper and glue
- Plastic top from a milk bottle or similar
- Wooden kebab stick or thin stick for a stem
- Sticky tape or double-sided tape
- Cotton wool ball

### Sugar solution

- Jam jar with lid
- 1 tbsp granulated sugar 9 tbsp hot water
- Measure the water and sugar into the jam jar, and stir until dissolved
- Use as required
- This will keep in the fridge for 1 week

### Method:

1. Colour in the flower using coloured pens or pencils
2. Or stick coloured tissue paper onto the flower
3. Carefully cut out the flower
4. Stick a kebab stick or wooden stick, as a stem onto the back of the flower with the sticky tape, ensure the stick is long enough to be pushed into the ground
5. Stick the bottle top into the middle of the flower
6. Make up the sugar solution with the water as above
7. Pour some of the sugar solution into the lid of the jam jar
8. Take a cotton wool ball and soak it in sugar/water solution



9. Push the wet, surgery cotton wool ball into the plastic bottle top in the middle of the flower, the cotton wool will stay in the bottle top without the need for glue
10. Place the flower in the garden or on a patio area in a pot in a sunny part of the garden
11. Make different designs to attract the butterflies
12. Re - soak the cotton wool ball with the sugar solution daily and bring the flowers in if the weather is wet
13. Keep it out for at least a week to attract the butterflies to the garden before taking part in the Big Butterfly Count

## FRUIT AND SYRUP BUTTERFLY FEEDER

Butterflies love the sugar from ripe sweet fruit and sweet syrup. Make this fruit and syrup butterfly feeder to attract the butterflies and give them extra energy. Hang the butterfly feeder on a low branch, a fence or a bird table in a sunny spot in the garden or patio area. If you have made any of the other butterfly feeders place them nearby. Keep it topped up with fresh fruit and syrup for at least a week to attract the butterflies to the garden before taking part in the Big Butterfly Count.

### You will need:

- Strong plastic plate or large plastic lid from an ice cream tub or similar
- Skewer or dowel for making holes
- 2 pieces of string 50cm for hanging
- Small yoghurt pot and glue:
- Cotton wool balls or orange or red-coloured sponge
- 2 flowers from the garden or lawn (if available)
- Ripened fruit - oranges, apples, bananas, grapes, sliced

### Sugar solution:

- Jam jar with lid
- 2 tbsp. granulated sugar 18 tbsp. hot water
- Measure the water and sugar into the jam jar, and stir until dissolved
- Use as required
- This will keep in the fridge for 1 week

### Method:

1. Ask an adult to help
2. Using the skewer or dowel drill 4 small holes in the corners of the lid or plate
3. Make 3 more holes around the base/centre of the lid or plate for drainage
4. Attach the string to the 4 holes in the corners to hang the plate or lid
5. Glue the pot into the middle of the plate
6. Place the cotton wool balls or coloured sponge into the pot and pour the syrup mixture on top of them
7. Place the flowers on the cotton wool to attract the butterflies
8. Arrange the fruit around the plate
9. Hang the fruit and syrup butterfly feeder on a low branch, a bird table or a fence in a sunny part of the garden near to other feeders or flowers
10. Refresh the sugar solution weekly and the flowers when required, bring in if the weather is very wet.
11. Keep it out for at least a week to attract the butterflies to the garden before taking part in the Big Butterfly Count



# DECORATED LONG-LASTING BUTTERFLY FEEDER

Make this simple decorated butterfly feeder, the sugar solution will soak the cotton wool providing continual energy for the butterflies. Hang the butterfly feeder on a low branch, a fence or a bird table in a sunny spot in the garden or patio area to attract the butterflies. If you have made any of the other butterfly feeders place them nearby. Keep it topped up with syrup and fresh decorations for at least a week to attract the butterflies to the garden before taking part in the [Big Butterfly Count](#).

## You will need:

- An empty plastic sauce bottle
- Cotton wool ball
- 5 elastic bands
- 6 fresh butterfly-friendly flowers or
- 6 tissue flowers [see instructions]
- String or coloured knitting wool

## Sugar solution:

- Jam jar with lid
- 2 tbsp. granulated sugar 18 tbsp. hot water
- Measure the water and sugar into the jam jar, and stir until dissolved
- Use as required
- This will keep in the fridge for 1 week

## Method:

1. Wash an empty sauce, shampoo or washing up bottle and lid
2. Remove the cap from the lid
3. Put a strong elastic band around the base of the bottle
4. Tie the coloured wool or string to either end of the elastic band. This is the handle to hang the bottle upside-down
5. Place 4 more elastic bands around the outside of the bottle
6. Decorate the bottle with the flowers. If using the real flowers, tuck the stems into the elastic bands. If using the tissue flowers, tie the string onto the elastic bands
7. Open the bottle and fill with the sugar solution
8. Place the cotton wool ball in the lid, screw the lid onto the bottle and turn the bottle upside down. The syrup will flow down the cotton wool ball for butterflies to drink
9. Hang the feeder on a low branch, a bird table or a fence in a sunny part of the garden near to other feeders or flowers
10. Refresh the sugar solution weekly and the flowers when required, bring in if the weather is very wet.
11. Keep it out for at least a week to attract the butterflies to the garden before taking part in the [Big Butterfly Count](#)



# GROWING THE FUTURE

The Growing the Future project at the National Botanic Garden of Wales is a five-year project to champion Welsh horticulture, plants for pollinators, the protection of wildlife and the virtues of growing plants for food, fun, health and well-being.

Whether you are a seasoned gardener, a fledgling grower or a budding beekeeper – we want to help provide training, information and support to you. For more information on the project's events and courses, please call **01558 667150**, email [\*\*gtf@gardenofwales.org.uk\*\*](mailto:gtf@gardenofwales.org.uk) or visit [\*\*botanicgarden.wales/science/growing-the-future\*\*](http://botanicgarden.wales/science/growing-the-future).

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