

# Earth Day Info Sheet

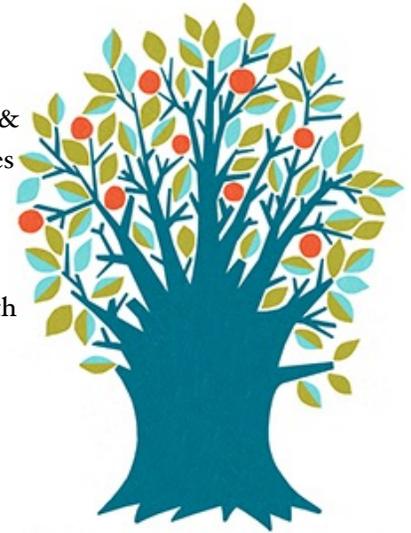
for a wildlife friendly planting season!

**NATIVE** plants are generally easier to care for and are beneficial to the local wildlife. Non natives are ok but avoid invasive plants like English Ivy, Pachysandra & Butterfly Bush. Find out if a plant is invasive at: [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org). See which Natives are good for wildlife & your garden conditions at: [www.iconserve.org](http://www.iconserve.org)

In addition to planting, you can provide **WATER SOURCES** (pollinators as well as birds use them) & include pebbles if you can for winged friends to land. Help with **NESTING** - birds, bats, bees or butterflies! **NATURAL COVER** also provides needed safety zones for wildlife in a brush pile, hedgerow or groups of plants.

Minimize the use of insecticides, pesticides and chemical fertilizers. **Learn to Love** bugs, dandelions & clover! Butterflies, bees & ladybugs need them.

Window containers work perfectly if you don't have a garden!



## Planting for Butterflies

A butterfly garden needs:

- Sun
- Adult nectar plants \*
- Caterpillar host plants\*
- Min. / No pesticide use
- rocks, "puddling" and "sugaring" can help!



Hummingbirds may visit too!

## Season-Round Blooming - planting plan for Bees

- Crocus | Hyacinth | Calendula | Wild Lilac (*Spring*)
- Bee Balm | Cosmos | Echinacea | Snapdragons | Foxglove (*Summer*)
- Zinnias | Sedum | Asters | Witch Hazel | Goldenrod (*Late Bloomers*)

*source: thehoneybeeconservancy.org*

## Attracting Ladybugs

Ladybugs eat pest insects & pollen so organic gardeners love them! Let Ladybugs take care of aphid problems next time instead of using insecticides.

Flowers (pollen) that attract Ladybugs:

Angelica | Calendula | Caraway | Chives | Cilantro | Cosmos | Dill | Fennel | Feverfew | Marigold | Statice | Sweet Alyssum

Or aphid attracting decoy plants include:

Early cabbage | Marigold | Nasturtium | Radish

*source: gardensalive.com*

*Source: College of Agricultural Sciences,  
Penn State*

This is not an exhaustive list! some plants are both host and nectar plants - & even provide seeds/berries for birds too!

## \*Caterpillar host plants:

[Name (Latin) | Type - Caterpillars attracted]

- Aster** *Aster* spp. | Perennial - Pearl Cres.
  - Clover** *Trifolium* spp. | Perennial - Mourning Cloak
  - Dill** *Anethum graveolens* | Annual - Black swallowtail
  - Dogwood** *Cornus* spp. | Shrub/Tree - Spring azure
  - Hibiscus** *Hibiscus* spp. | Shrub/Tree - Various
  - Hollyhock** *Alcea* spp. | Biennial - Various
  - Milkweed** *Asclepias* spp. | Perennial/Annual - Monarch
  - Mustard** *Brassica* spp. | Biennial - Cabbage Butterfly
  - Nettles** *Urtica* spp. | Perennial - Various
  - Parsley** *Petroselinum crispum* | Biennial - Black swallowtail
  - Sassafras** *Sassafras album* | Shrub/Tree-Spicebush Swallowtail
  - Snapdragon** *Antirrhinum* spp. | Perennial/Annual-Buckeye
  - Spicebush** *Lindera benzoin* | Shrub -Spicebush swallowtail
  - Violet** *Viola* spp. | Perennial - Fritillaries
- & Deciduous Trees: **Birch, Black Cherry, Cottonwood, Tulip, Willow.**

some host plants  
are common  
**VEGGIES** so buy  
a few extra for  
butterflies this  
year!

Butterflies Bees & Ladybugs - our  
vital pollinators - are all in great  
decline in the USA. Let's help!  
- Earth Day -

## \*Nectar plants:

- Aster** *Aster* spp. | Perennial
- Azalea** *Rhododendron* spp. | Shrub/ Tree
- Bee balm** *monarda Monarda* spp. | Perennial
- Blackberry, Raspberry** *Rubus* spp. | Shrub
- Black-eyed Susan** *Rudbeckia hirta* | Perennial
- Blazing Star** *Liatris* spp. | Perennial, biennial, annual
- Butterfly weed** *Asclepia tuberosa* | Perennial
- Buttonbush** *Cephalanthus* | Shrub/Tree
- Coreopsis** *Coreopsis anceolata* | Perennial/Annual
- Geranium** *Geranium* spp. | Perennial
- Goldenrod** *Solidago* spp. | Perennial
- Highbush Blueberry** *Vaccinium Corymbosum* | Shrub
- Ironweed** *Vernonia* spp. | Perennial
- Joe-pye weed** *Eupatorium purpureum* | Perennial
- Lantana** *Lantana* spp. | Annual
- Lilac** *Syringa vulgaris* | Shrub
- Marigold** *Tagetes* spp. | Annual
- Milkweed** *Asclepias* spp. | Perennial
- Phlox** *Phlox drummondii* | Perennial
- Purple coneflower** *Echinacea* | Perennial
- Sunflower** *Helianthus* spp. | Annual
- Sweet pepper bush** *Clethra alnifolia* | Shrub
- Trumpet honeysuckle** *Lonicera sempervirens* | Vine
- Verbena** *Verbena* spp. | Perennial
- Wild Columbine** *Aquiegia Canadensis* | Perennial
- Zinnia** *Zinnia* spp. | Annual

Merion's plant  
sale is  
May 6-8  
remember!