



# Butterflies and Moths as Pollinators



Moths and butterflies, order Lepidoptera, have a long mouthpart called a proboscis which they are able to extend into a flower to retrieve nectar. As they collect the nectar reward they come into contact with pollen. While they lack a specialized structure for collecting pollen some stays on their wings, heads, and proboscis and is then transferred between flowers they visit.

Butterflies and moths are not as efficient pollinators as bees, but they are very active and visit a wide variety of flowers. Lepidoptera species rely on visual clues to locate nectar bearing flowers and tend to be found on the showier blooms.

Many butterflies and moths have co-evolved with different plants and require specific host species for some part of their lifecycle. These host species tend to be used as egg laying grounds and as a larval food source.

## **Butterfly Flower Characteristics:**

In clusters or provide landing platforms, brightly colored –red, yellow, violet, and orange, open during the day, ample nectar, nectar guides, fresh scent, narrow tube shape

## **Plants Frequented in This Garden:**

Swamp, Butterfly, and Common Milkweed, New England Aster, Joe Pye Weed, Bee Balm, and Blazing Star

