



Parks and Landscape Services Division

Creating a Nectar Patch

Bees, butterflies, moths and many other insect species will be attracted to nectar-producing plants. In turn, birds and bats are attracted to your garden to feed on these insects. It is one place where a large variety of non-native plants may be grown. These invertebrates will love any plant that has copious amounts of nectar.

Butterflies will be attracted to the non-native butterfly bush (*Buddleia* spp.), Lavender, Candytuft, Marjoram, Yellow alyssum, Ice plant, Verbena, Red valerian and early flowering spring bulbs such as Grape hyacinths and Crocus. They will also love the native Bramble, Devil's bit scabious, Knapweed, Primrose and Self-Heal. If nettles are grown in a container nearby, species such as the Red Admiral, Peacock and Tortoiseshell will lay eggs on them. Their caterpillars will eat no other plant except the nettle.

Bees will be attracted to the native Gorse, Ivy, Broom and Clover, and the non-native Borage, Mint, Hyssop, Sage, Viburnum species and flowering Currant.

Moths like evening and night-scented plants like the native and non-native Honeysuckles, Tobacco plant, Evening primrose and Night-scented stock.

This nectar-patch area should face southwards, as insects like warmth. A south-facing wall is an ideal to have as a backdrop to the nectar bed.

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