

BUTTERFLY PUDDLERS

PUDDLER DISHES PROVIDE A WATER SOURCE FOR BUTTERFLIES.

Butterflies drink by “puddling”. They sip at shallow puddles of water in mud or sand instead of landing in large open water areas where they would otherwise drown. Puddling is also a way for butterflies to digest minerals which are especially needed by male butterflies. The males benefit from the sodium uptake as it aids in reproductive success with females. The salts and amino acids absorbed during mud-puddling play various roles in butterfly ecology, ethology and physiology.

MAKING A SOIL OR SAND PUDDLER

Materials needed:

- medium to large plant saucer in plastic, glass or pottery,
- salt, water, sugar if using mud -manure if using sand
- flat stones or pebbles, soil or sand
- a trowel,

HOW TO MAKE A SOIL/MUD PUDDLER:

- Fill the shallow pan/saucer nearly to the rim with plain soil, which is rich in minerals and proteins.
- Add 1 cup of water, a pinch of salt plus 3 tablespoons of sugar, and mix well.
- Then add this mixture to already muddy soil to make it soupy but still able to trowel a small well or indentation. Shallow water will collect here.
- Imbed a flat rock into the soil with the top level with the soil. Or, scoop out a section and fill with thin layer of pebbles so that butterflies can stand on them while drinking.

HOW TO MAKE A SAND PUDDLER:

- Fill the shallow pan/saucer nearly to the rim with sand.
- If the sand is play sand then you must add a pinch of salt. If it is beach sand then no additional salt is necessary.
- Add manure to the sand - about half a cup and mix well on top surface to incorporate the minerals needed by the butterfly.
- Add water and flat rocks or pebbles as noted above.

You may use either style puddler or both as a choice for you butterflies and try adding some fruit too. You must frequently water your puddler so that it doesn't dry out. You must also empty and replace the materials about every 4 to 6 weeks. But you should also make sure that you have flowers in your garden to attract them there in the first place.

HERE IS A LIST OF FLOWERS YOU SHOULD HAVE TO MAKE A BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Annuals

Cosmos #1
Zinnia #2
Alyssum #3
Sun Flower #4
Lobelia
Pansy
Lantana

Perennial

Butterfly Bush (Buddlia) #1
Agastache (Hyssop) #2
Monarda #3
Echinacea (Cone flower) #4
Milk Weed – many varieties
Autumn Sedum
Golden Rod

Plants numbered 1 through 4 are those which attract butterflies the most!

