

## June is National Family Month

Make a Butterfly Feeder with your Family  
Watch with Enjoyment Together!!!



Butterflies are some of the most beautiful creatures you will see in the summertime. Their colorful wings add an artist touch to gardens as they flutter from flower to flower in search for nectar. You can attract a greater variety of butterflies by making a butterfly feeder to hang in your yard or by planting flowers that butterflies like.

Be sure to keep a field guide handy so you can identify your visitors! (An Audubon guide is a great choice for older kids and adults, and a Golden guide works well for younger kids.) Some butterflies love flower nectar, while others prefer to eat sugar from rotting fruit.

### Plate Feeder



This butterfly feeder is easier to make than the jar feeder - and it gives you a use for all that old fruit that you usually have to throw away.

#### **Materials:**

- A plate or plastic lid from a 1-gallon ice cream container.
- String
- Overripe, spoiling fruit.

(See if your grocery store will let you have what they are throwing out for free, if you don't have any at home.)

- Orange juice

#### **Procedure**

1. Use the string to make a hanger for your plate. If you're using an old ice cream lid you can punch holes in the side and tie the string to it. If it's a plate that you can't punch holes in, use tape. You can decorate the strings with artificial flowers to make it more attractive to butterflies.

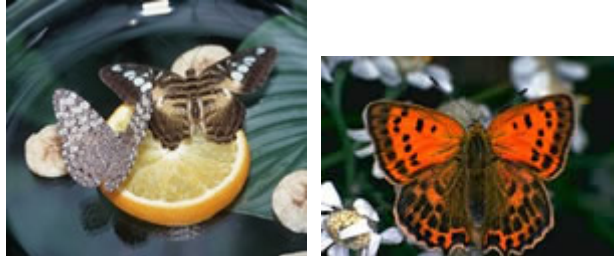
2. Hang your plate from a tree branch before you fill it - this will make the process less messy! It will probably attract other bugs besides butterflies, so you may want to hang it in a far corner of your yard.

3. Put overripe fruit on the plate - try slices of watermelon, oranges, or bananas. You can also add some orange juice to keep the fruit from drying out as fast. Bananas will be

mushier and more appealing to butterflies if you freeze them first and then thaw them and cut them in slices.

4. Watch and see what kinds of butterflies come to eat. Do different species prefer different kinds of fruit? How many butterflies can you see feeding on your plate at once?

5. When the fruit gets too dry, throw it out and put more on the plate.



[Watch a Caterpillar Hatch from its Egg!](#)

[Photographs of Monarch Metamorphosis](#)

[Photographs of Giant Swallowtail Emergence](#)

[Host Plant Information for Common Butterfly Species](#)



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**Have fun!**