

July 2017 Plant of the Month

Butterfly Bush *Buddleja davidii*

Plant Form: Deciduous Shrub
Water Use: Low, Moderate
Mature Size: 6-8 ft. tall x 4-6 ft. wide
Exposure: Full Sun, Part Sun
Bloom Time: Summer - Fall (July - Oct)
Native to: Asia (China, Japan)
Hardiness: Cold Hardy to -20°F

Butterfly Bush is valued for its showy flowers in summer and fall, when most other shrubs are done blooming. Fragrant purple flowers grow in spikes from July to October on long, arching stems of this bushy, fast-growing shrub. This prolific nectar plant attracts hordes of adult butterflies, but gardeners hoping to provide habitat for these winged jewels also need to install host plants that their larvae rely on to grow into new butterflies, such as milkweeds (butterfly larvae cannot survive on Butterfly Bush). While Butterfly Bush can be invasive in wetter parts of North America, it does not appear to spread in desert areas. Prune back hard in late winter or spring to stimulate vigorous new growth, maintain shape, and produce superior flowering. Use as a background planting or specimen in butterfly and hummingbird gardens, cottage or Mediterranean gardens, and containers. New compact cultivars are available for smaller gardens



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