

Create a Butterfly Puddle

Overview: Make your butterfly garden even more attractive to these beautiful creatures by adding a special water and nutrient source for them.

Materials:

- Shallow container
- Sand
- Soil, composted manure or salt

Approximate Time to Complete: 15 minutes

Location: Outdoor

Ages: All Ages

Season: Spring - Fall

Instructions:

In addition to foliage plants for the larval stage and blooming plants for the adult stage, puddles or other shallow water sources are important, primarily for male butterflies, as a source of salt and amino acids. If you have no naturally occurring puddles, try making one to add to your butterfly garden.

1. Locate a shallow container like a large clay or plastic pot saucer. You can also make your own creative design using concrete or [purchase](#) a pre-made puddling stone. The only requirement for your container is that it be able to hold water.

2. Fill your container with sand up to the very top.

3. To provide the salts and amino acids the butterflies are searching for, add a small amount of soil, composted manure or a pinch of salt and mix with your sand.

4. Smooth out your sand and create a slight indentation in the center for your puddle.

3. Add water and then place in your butterfly garden. Next sit back and watch for large congregations of male butterflies and their drinking buddies.

4. Replace water as needed. Depending on the weather, you may need to add more water every couple of days.

Want to add more accessories? Try placing a couple of flat, dark stones in your garden to offer a spot where butterflies can bask in the sun and warm their bodies for flying.



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