now to: make a butterny feeder

Butterflies are abundant in the summer and early Autumn, so this is the time to provide a feeder. Making butterfly food is easy – you either mix up a simple nectar or use rotting fruit. To attract the most butterflies, it is a good idea to put out both types of feeders, as some butterflies prefer nectar while others like fruit.

Plate feeders for butterflies

Plate feeders can be purchased or made at home using a thin plastic plate or the lid from a large ice cream tub or Tupperware container through which you can punch holes to hang it with wire or twine.

A plate feeder is a great way to make use of fruit that has gone off. Add slices of fruit that is overripe or spoiling. Butterflies are particularly fond of oranges, grapefruits, strawberries, peaches, nectarines apples and bananas, especially bananas that have been stored in the freezer and then thawed so that they become black and mushy.

Once you have added the fruit, hang the feeder and wait for visiting butterflies to discover it. You can increase the likelihood that butterflies will find your feeder by attaching large, brightly colored plastic or silk flowers to its edges or to the string or wire that you use to hang it, and by hanging it near large, aromatic real flowers.

Clean the feeder regularly, and replace fruit when it dries out or becomes mouldy. You can keep it moist for longer by adding fruit juice. Butterfly feeders may attract other types of bugs, so you may not want to hang them right next to your windows or doors.

Bufferfly Neefar

To make butterfly nectar, mix 4 parts water with 1 part sugar and boil for a few minutes until the sugar sugar and pointor a new minutes ununtrie sugar dissolves. Cool the nectar thoroughly before adding it to the feeder. Large batches can be made and stored

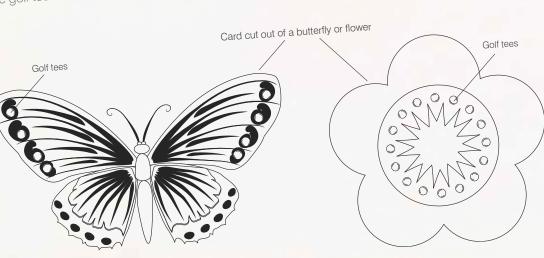


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now to: make a butterfly feeder

what to do

- Draw a simple shape such as a flower or butterfly onto the card and cut it out. Decide where you want to put the golf tees and cut out small holes on the card where the tees will go.
- Now decorate your feeder. Try experimenting with different colours and designs. Blue and yellow are good colours to use, but try to avoid using red because butterflies cant see that colour very well!
- When the paint is dry, draw a pattern around the holes using the special UV pens. These patterns will help the butterflies find the sugar water inside the golf tees.
- Next, add the golf tees. Push them through the holes in the card and stick them in place using modelling clay or plascticine. Now you can lie your feeder flat on the ground and push it down using the golf tees to keep it secure. Try and place the feeder in a place where the butterflies will be protected from predators, for example away from trees and bushes where cats amd birds can hide.
- So Complete your feeder by adding your home made nectar (see page 1) to the golf tees. X



Tools/Materials

- Ultraviolet (UV) pens
- Card
- Scissors
- Golf tees
- Sugar water
- Colouring pens or paints





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