

'Watching' Butterflies...

Ohio Butterflies: <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/species-guide-index/butterflies-skipper>

Making a butterfly feeder: Best time to attract butterflies to a feeder is mid-April to June . To have butterflies continuously in summer, consider planting a butterfly flower garden.

Materials List #1...Sugar Water Feeder

- Small glass canning jar with metal lid
- Hammer and large nail
- 1/2" x 1/2" x 3" strip of cellulose or natural sponge
(no chemical additives)
- Sugar and water
- Colorful artificial flowers
- String and 1" metal key ring

Materials List #2... Fruit and Molasses Feeder

- Shallow, medium, plant coaster (one with some weight is better)
- Frozen ripe bananas, 2 Tbs. blackstrap molasses, 3/4 c. dry yeast in warm water
- Drill and small bit to cut holes in plastic plant coaster
- String and paperclips

Using both materials lists will create a two tiered feeder or two separate feeders, your choice. Making both will give your backyard butterflies a choice in food and bring in a greater number of butterfly species.

Materials List #1 is for the sugar water feeder. Collect materials. With the lid removed and using a hammer and nail, punch a hole in the metal lid of the glass jar. Pull the strip of sponge through the hole leaving about 1/2" to be outside the jar. It should fit tight. Too loose and the sugar water will drip and empty the jar. (Test this by putting plain water in the jar, close with the sponge lid and invert to see if it drips.) Make the sugar water by mixing 9 parts water to 1 part granulated sugar. (Do not use honey or artificial sweeteners.) Heat on the stove until sugar is completely dissolved and let cool completely. While the sugar water cools, make a string hanger for the jar. Tie cotton string tightly around the neck of the jar. Cut four equal length strings (about 14" each) and tie these to the jar using the jar neck string. Distribute the strings evenly around the neck of the jar. The jar will hang up side down, so draping the four strings down the jar, secure the strings to encase the jar with a second string encircling the jar about half way down the jar. (see picture) Fill the jar with the sugar water mixture and closed lid tightly. Tie remaining loose ends of the four strings to a metal key ring making sure the jar will hang vertically up side down. Decorate with artificial flowers. Renew sugar mix every week.

Materials List #2 is for the ripe fruit and molasses feeder. Collect materials. Using a small drill bit cut four holes evenly distributed around the top edge of the coaster. Cut four pieces of string, each about 22" so the coaster will hang 8" below the sugar water feeder or 14" if it will be hanging alone. Place a paperclips through each hole and tie string tightly through each paperclip. Tie strings to metal key ring under sugar feeder or to its own key ring if it will be hung separately. To prepare the fruit and molasses, first freeze the peeled bananas. Remove from freezer, let thaw. They will have a gray mealy look but that's okay. Dissolve one pkg. of dry yeast in 3/4 cup of warm water. Add 2Tbs. of molasses to this yeast solution. Place thawed bananas in the coaster and pour the yeast/molasses mixture over the bananas or other fruit. Renew fruit weekly.

DIY Pictures

Butterfly Feeder:

