

Butterfly Bush

Buddleia davidii

A dense canopy of foliage and a generous flower display combine to make butterfly bush a popular item in many southern landscapes. The flowers attract many different butterflies and bees. It is one of the best plants for this purpose. At least 25 cultivars are listed for *Buddleia davidii*, each with a slightly different flower coloration. Planted in a landscape, butterfly bush does well in the middle or front of the shrub border so it receives full sun. They grow in partial shade but flower production is reduced. Planted as a specimen by itself, butterfly bush may be disappointing since it usually falls over. Butterfly bush performs nicely in a container provided it is placed in a full sun location. In a container, it can be trained into a multi-trunked shrub resembling a small tree, but requires daily irrigation to maintain flowering and a good appearance.

Type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 6 through 10

Uses: container or above-ground planter; trained as a standard; near a deck or patio; accent; border; attracts butterflies; attracts hummingbirds

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 6 to 12 feet **Spread:** 6 to 12 feet

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

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Photo: UF/IFAS