

Butterflies

Bees and butterflies used to be all around us, but now wild weeds and wildflowers that attracted them have become scarce -- and even farm crops are few and far between here at the crossroads of I-77 and I-40.

Many people are putting plants near themselves, so they, too, can enjoy these flyers. Plus, birds, bees, moths and butterflies are also good pollinators for other flowers, trees and shrubs.

For the butterflies, or any kind of garden, it's always best to plant according to your area; so both the NC Botanical Gardens Native Plant List and www.ncwildflower.org/natives/recommend.htm are good checklists for us to compare choices.



And speaking of butterflies, there are so many! While the North American Butterfly Association (www.nababutterfly.com) does a good job, we always google "n c butterflies" for the best information, pictures and photos for our gardens. You can see photos (like the one above) via Dorothy E. Pugh's site (<http://www.dpughphoto.com/>) plus she has field and swamp animals pictured.

The NC Cooperative Service has a great booklet "Butterflies In Your Backyard" (http://www.ncsu.edu/goingnative/ag636_02.pdf) that can be read or downloaded from the internet and highly recommended.

But tell us what you have done for the bees and butterflies in your neighborhood, via our Home Page, www.iredellwatch.org.