

Gardening 101 info for website

- Welcome to Gardening 101 presented by the Master Gardeners of Orange County. Whether you're planting your very first seed or looking to become more skilled, this special LBGC-supported educational program is your pathway. You will learn the basics and practical tips to transform your backyard.
- This past year, we have delved into the secrets of soil, the power of native plants, the amazing options for warm-season planting, and how to support backyard wildlife.
- Please join us after most of our LBGC meetings for our Gardening 101 class. For interested members, please plan to attend immediately after our regular meeting in the downstairs room across the patio. The presentation will last 30–45 minutes, including questions. The session will be presented by Master Gardeners Kris Bonner, Ingrid Cebula, Wendy Grande, Nora Koenig, and Melissa Rapp.
- Grow your skills and use sustainable gardening practices.

Highlights from April Gardening 101: Supporting Back Yard Habitat

Supporting backyard wildlife is an important step that we as individuals can take to help preserve biodiversity and create habitats. Unfortunately, butterfly, insect, and bird populations are dramatically decreasing due to urbanization, climate change, fires, invasive species, agriculture, and industry. Native riparian woodlands, freshwater marshes, and wetlands have significantly shrunk. However, each of us can make a difference by creating a supportive backyard habitat. Each backyard habitat will be a stepping stone for wildlife, connecting into wildlife corridors and providing support and shelter. To support backyard wildlife, all you need to do is give them what they need: food, water, shelter, and protection; plant native plants; and use sustainable gardening practices. Even just starting with a few choice plants, a water source, layering of plant heights, and minimizing pesticides will lead to a rise in beneficials and a thriving habitat.

Food: insects, berries, fruit, nectar, seeds, nuts, invertebrates

- Insects:
 - 97 of song bird species eat insects at some point in their life cycle
 - Baby birds eat caterpillars plus other insects
 - How to provide the insects they need? Give the insects food – plants or other insects, avoid pesticides
- Berries and fruit:
 - Many birds that eat insects in the summer switch to fruit in the winter months
 - Source of calories, sugar, and water
 - Great form of energy for migration
 - Also source of seeds
- Nectar
 - Hummingbirds- nectar :red tubular flowers
- Seeds and nuts
 - Rich in protein and fats
 - Sources of nuts: acorns from oaks, hazelnuts, hickory nuts
 - Sources of seeds: Grasses, dried flowers, pine and spruce cones, seed bearing plants
- Invertebrates
 - Snails,slugs, centipedes, worms, pillbugs
 - Live in the top layers of the soil and in decaying vegetation
 - Earthworms. Snails, and slugs are high in calcium – esp important when laying eggs
 - Create habitat for by leaving behind dead and decaying organic matter

3. Why are native plants so important for supporting backyard wildlife?

- Native plants support many more times the number of native beneficial insect species than non-native plants
- By having plants that bloom in all seasons you can support wildlife all year long

Calscape Native Plant Data Base



- Created by the California Native Plant Society
- Search options include
 - Plant type
 - Water requirements
 - Sun Requirements
 - Size
 - Attracting wildlife

water

- Shallow not deeper than than their legs
- Water that is moving
- Sometimes drink rain water or get water from their food
- Place to perch
- Near area can hide
- Water also helps them bath

Protection

- Avoid over-use of fertilizers
- Minimize pesticides
- Encourage beneficial insects
- Plant native plants – better support of native insects and animals
- Create safe areas and food sources since urbanization and less habitats in nature
- Prune trees in fall and winter
- Prevent window collisions-
- Keep cats indoors

Shelter: Perching/ nesting spots

- Trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers
- Rock piles, brush piles, tree cavities, birdhouses

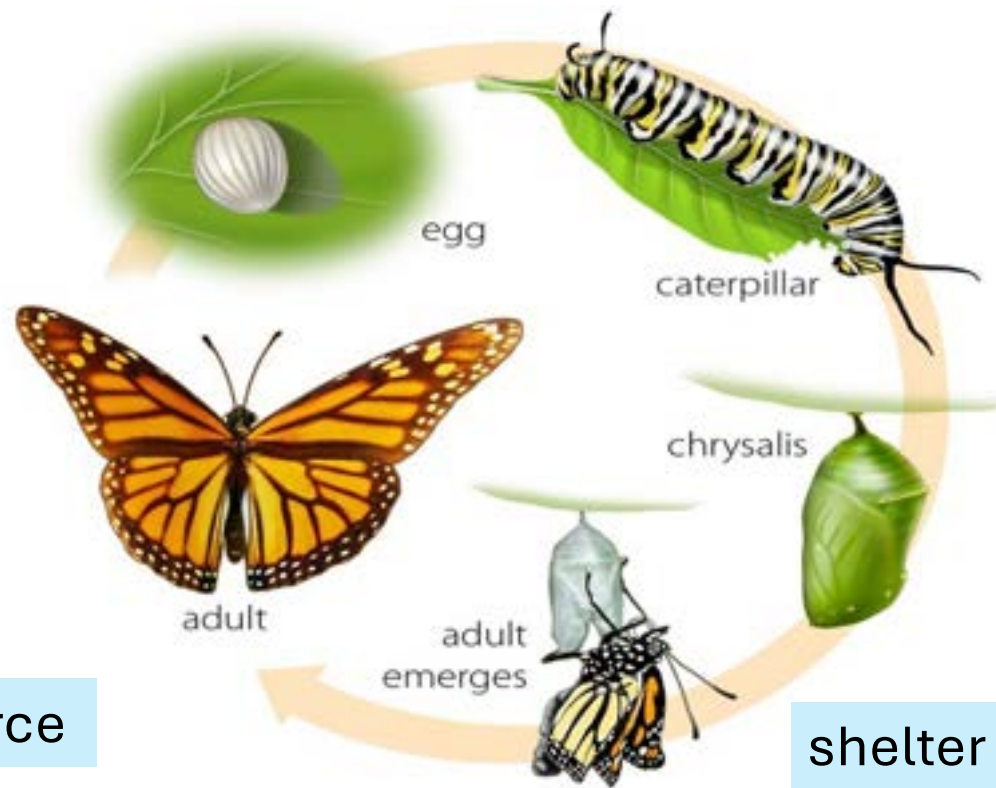


Butterfly Developmental Stages affects the needs

Adult → drink nectar

Nectar plants →
Plant source of nectar

Water source



Caterpillar/larvae
→ eat voraciously
including leaves,
flowers, seeds,
grasses, other
plant parts

Host plant :
Plants the
caterpillar eat
and where the
eggs are laid