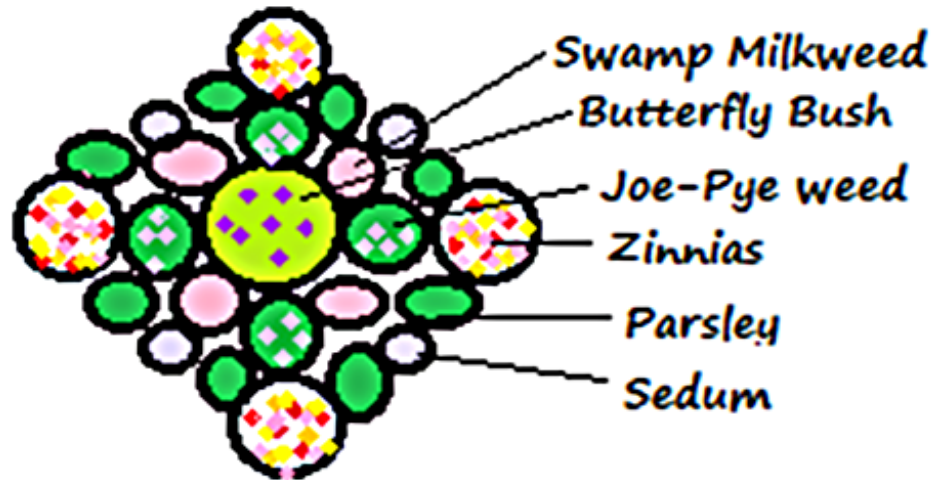


Plans for a Butterfly-Attracting Flower Garden

Plan by Susan Patterson

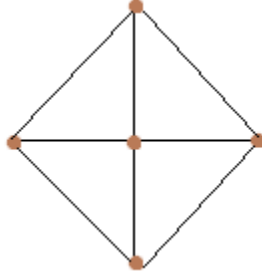


Tools and Materials

- Measuring tape
- Stakes and string
- Spray paint
- Tiller
- Landscape fabric
- Scissors
- Landscape pins
- Garden edging material
- Shovel
- Plants and seed
- Mulch
- Rake
- Hoe
- Water source
- Liquid fertilizer

Steps

- 1 Select a level, sunny location for your garden butterfly garden. Measure out and mark a 24x24 foot diamond shape on the ground using stakes and string. First, make a cross shape and then connect the stakes to make the sides of the diamond.



- 2 Use the string as your guide to outline the diamond with spray paint. Remove the stakes after you are done. Use a tiller to till the inside of the diamond shape.
- 3 Cover the tilled area with landscape fabric. Cut the fabric to fit then pin it down. This will prevent weeds from growing up in the bed.
- 4 Install an edging material around the bed. You can use plastic, brick, stone, concrete, or wood. The edging needs to be at least 4 inches high. This will help keep weeds out and mulch in.
- 5 Plant according to the diagram. To plant, cut a large enough hole in the landscape fabric, dig a hole and then plant. Planting instructions:
 - a Plant a butterfly bush in the center of the bed. Choose a young plant that has had a head start on growing.
 - b Plant four 4-foot wide clusters of joe pye weed from seed evenly spaced around the bush.
 - c Plant 4 foot clusters of swamp milkweed from seed in between the joe pye weed.
 - d Plant each corner with a 6-foot wide cluster of zinnias from seed.
 - e Plant parsley plants on either sides of the zinnias.
 - f Plant a cluster of sedum plants in between the parsley.
- 6 Spread mulch all over the garden. Make the mulch layer at least 3 inches thick. Be careful not to cover small plants. Spread the mulch using a rake.
- 7 If you notice any weeds in the garden, use a hoe to remove them. Keep the garden watered and fertilized with a liquid fertilizer every few months. Replant annuals every spring, and trim the butterfly bush in the fall to prevent it from growing too large.