

Containers

for hummingbirds and butterflies

While planting your containers this spring, consider providing nectar plants for winged wonders. These container recipes are sure to attract a flurry of visitors.

Photos courtesy of Proven Winners® www.provenwinners.com



OVERFLOWING WITH BLOOMS

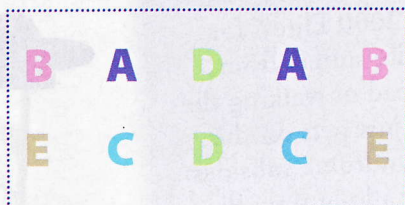
Hummingbirds and butterflies won't be able to resist this combination of plants. Petunias and verbenas are perfect for containers because they won't crowd out other plants. These particular varieties don't require deadheading, either! When planting in a long window box, a symmetrical planting plan is key to making the container look its absolute best throughout the season.

Planter size: 24-inch-long window box

Growing conditions: Full sun

Shopping list:

- A** Molimba® Helio White marguerite daisy (2)
- B** Sunsatia® Cranberry nemesia (2)
- C** White Supertunia® (2)
- D** Babylon® blue verbena (2)
- E** Babylon® red verbena (2)



BRING ON THE BUTTERFLIES

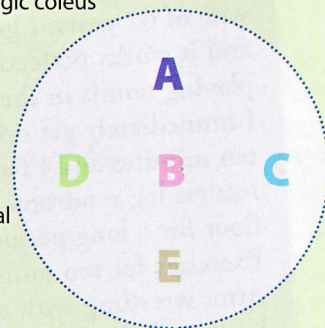
If you'd like to welcome butterflies to your backyard, try a container that includes a small-scale butterfly bush, like the English Butterfly™ Peacock™. Since it has a compact habit and won't overcrowd the neighbors, it's a perfect choice for smaller landscapes and containers. Also, the euphorbia and spurge fill the container without adding a lot of maintenance, while the pretty purple flowers of the betony spill over the side.

Planter size: 20-inch-diameter pot

Growing conditions: Full sun

Shopping list:

- A** English Butterfly™ Peacock™ butterfly bush (1)
- B** Merlins Magic coleus (1)
- C** Diamond Frost® euphorbia (1)
- D** Kalipso spurge (1)
- E** Sentimental Journey® betony (1)



Do you have a container recipe that attracts birds or butterflies? Share your secrets! See our Contributor Guidelines on page 5.

HUMMINGBIRDS WELCOME

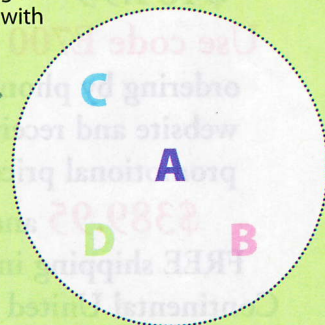
Hummingbirds and gardeners alike love colorful plants with interesting textures. The sweet flag adds height and movement with wispy foliage. Meanwhile, the coral bells and Superbells® fill in the center with dramatic color. The Supertunia® spill over the side and are low-maintenance—requiring no deadheading!

Planter size: 36-inch-diameter pot

Growing conditions: Full sun

Shopping list:

- A** Ogon golden variegated sweet flag (1)
- B** Coral Pink Superbells® (1)
- C** Amethyst Myst coral bells (1)
- D** Mini Rose Veined Supertunia® (1)





Weigela

Balley Nurseries



Spring Azure

Mike Reese



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Roland Joradahl



Allium

Marietta Cunningham

Spring Azure

This petite flier can be found gracefully flitting from flower to flower at the first signs of the spring season. It is easy to spot spring azures because their soft violet-blue wings stand out against the light greenery of early spring.

Scientific Name: *Celastrina ladon*.

Family: Gossamer wing.

Wingspan: 3/4 to 1-1/4 inches.

Distinctive Markings: The wings of adult males are a silvery violet blue from above, and grayish white with black markings and outer edges from below. Females are duller in color with more white and a broad black border on the topside.

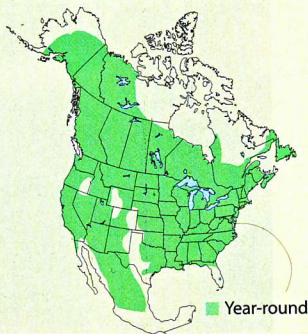
Distinctive Behavior: The caterpillar secretes a sweet substance (honeydew) through glands on its abdomen. This protein-rich substance attracts ants, which not only eat the substance, but also help protect the caterpillar from predators like flies and wasps.

Habitat: Open roadsides, clearings, forested areas and brushy fields.

Caterpillar: Colors vary from cream to yellow green and pink

to brown. They are often marked with darker patterns on the back and sides.

Host Plants: Feeds on flowering dogwood as a host. They eat the flowers rather than the leaves because they are more nutritious.



BIRDS & BLOOMS

Collector's Card No. 169
February/March 2009
www.birdsandblooms.com

Weigela

Even though this beautiful shrub has brilliant blooms hummingbirds can't resist, there are plenty of other reasons to sing its praises. Weigela is quite versatile, and will adapt to many soil types. Plus, it's easy to grow, reliable and can be planted in flower beds or even containers!

Common name: Weigela.

Botanical name: *Weigela florida*.

Bloom Time: Late spring to early summer and sporadically throughout the season.

Hardiness: Zones 4 to 9.

Flowers: Showy bell- to funnel-shaped pink, red and sometimes yellow or white blooms, which are usually 1-1/2 inches long.

Size: 3 to 9 feet high and 3 to 12 feet wide.

Light Needs: Full sun or partial shade.

Growing Advice: Plant in fertile, well-draining soil. Make sure to leave enough room if planting a variety that will have a wide growth.

Prize Picks: My Monet is a small 18-inch plant that is great for containers. Pink Poppet offers a profusion of pink blooms on dwarf plants. Dark Horse has bronze foliage and pink flowers.



BIRDS & BLOOMS

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Allium

Alliums not only provide stunning visual interest, but they will grow successfully in almost any spot in the garden. As an added bonus, alliums work well as cut flowers and will last a long time in fresh arrangements. But don't worry; their onion scent fades as soon as the stems are in water!

Common name: Allium, flowering onion and ornamental onion.

Botanical name: *Allium* species.

Bloom Time: Late spring to fall.

Hardiness: Zones 2 to 8.

Flowers: Alliums are available in white, purple, blue, pink and yellow. Flower petals are small star-, bell- or cup-shaped flowers that grow in round or drooping clusters. Flower heads range from 3/4 inch to 12 inches.

Size: 6 inches to 5 feet high; 12 to 18 inches or more wide.

Light Needs: Full sun; some varieties will tolerate partial shade.

Growing Advice: Plant allium bulbs in fall at a depth two to three times their vertical diameter, but no deeper than 6 inches. If they eventually look overcrowded, divide them in fall.

Prize Picks: Giant allium grows

3 to 4 feet tall with a striking 6-inch purple flower head. Drumstick chives produce small, tightly packed purple flower heads on 3-foot stems.



BIRDS & BLOOMS

Collector's Card No. 171
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Rose-breasted Grosbeak

You'll know when you've spotted this beautiful bird. True to name, males have an unmistakable appearance—black with a beautiful splash of red settled on a white chest. Attract these birds to your yard by putting out feeders full of sunflower or safflower seeds.

Scientific Name: *Pheucticus ludovicianus*.

Family: Finch.

Size: 8 inches long with a wingspan of 12-1/2 inches.

Distinctive Markings: Males are black with a white chest, accented by a bright-red shield. Females are brown with heavy streaks and a white stripe above each eye.

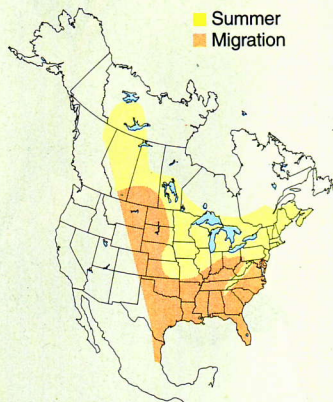
Nest: Loosely made with sticks, twigs, grasses, weed stems lined with fine twigs, rootlets or hair. Nest can be found in trees, shrubs or vines.

Song: A long, broken warble that's similar to the song of an American robin. The call note is an unmistakable metallic *kink*.

Habitat: Deciduous woods, swamp borders, old orchards and wooded suburban lots.

Diet: Insects, seeds and flower buds.

Backyard Favorite: Tray feeders filled with sunflower or safflower seeds.



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