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Home**scape**

style • garden • home improvement



A swallowtail butterfly perched on a purple coneflower, a favorite source of nectar.
Ann Heisenfelt / Associated Press

Luring
butterflies
depends on how
and what your
garden grows



A painted lady butterfly landed on a California lilac (Ceanothus) at Quail Botanical Gardens.
Eduardo Contreras / Union-Tribune

FLIGHT PLAN

By **Karen Dardick**

Plant them and they will come — painted ladies, gulf fritillaries, mourning cloaks, monarchs, dainty sulphurs, swallowtails and skippers. All are among the many colorful butterfly species that flit through San Diego gardens.

If you're tired of butterflies fluttering past your own garden, you can persuade them to linger by including a few of their favorite plants.

Butterfly gardening doesn't have to involve a total remake of an already existing garden. By adding some nectar-rich plants, with flower colors and shapes that lure butterflies, you can entice these winged beauties into your own property.

This is the sage advice of butterfly experts including Maureen Austin, founder and executive director of CHIRP (Center to Help Instill Respect and Preser-



Nadia Borowski Scott / Union-Tribune

PLANT A BUTTERFLY BANQUET: Nectar plants such as marigolds (*Tagetes*) and host plants that provide food for butterfly larvae bring winged visitors to your garden. **Page D15**

vation for Garden Wildlife), a nonprofit corporation dedicated to creating backyard environments favorable to butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

Austin, who has led Alpine's annual Sage and Song Birds Festival for 10 years, is currently helping with new plantings and signage for the Zoro butterfly garden in Balboa Park. A butterfly release will help celebrate the garden's reopening in July. (For more information, please see Page D14.) On a sunny spring or summer day, Austin steps into her Alpine garden amid the flutter of hundreds of butterflies, sipping nectar from treetop to ground level.

"Give them plants with nectar that they can feed on and they will come, and plants for their larvae that they can grow on and they will stay," she said.

There are two main types of butterfly plants —

SEE **Butterflies, D15**



The newly refurbished bird and butterfly garden at Cuyamaca College's Water Conservation Garden is planted with drought-tolerant plants. *Peggy Peattie / Union-Tribune*