



## Butterfly Bush

Number 037

March 6, 2017



### Buddleia has Fragrant Flowers in Late Summer and Early Fall

The Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*) is a native of China.

Most nursery grown plants, in Ontario, are variations of *Buddleia davidii*. This plant is known for its fountain of fragrant purple, pink, white, or even bicolour blooms that spill forth at the end of the summer and into the fall. It grows to be a large, deciduous shrub with arching branches.

### Varieties to Plant

The length of the flower spike varies with the variety.

### Preferred Conditions

*Buddleia* survives zone 5-9 but will die back to the ground in zone 5 areas. Be sure to apply a 3-6 inch

layer of mulch to protect the plant in winter. Growth will resume as late as early June

### Care and Pruning

The plant typically blooms from August to October if you keep it dead-headed. Another reason to deadhead is to control the spread of new young plants which will readily sprout from seed but may not be true to the mother plant. Don't be in a hurry to dig up your plant to assess winter damage. Once it starts again, it will grow rapidly. This plant blooms on new wood.

*Buddleia* tolerate alkaline soil and urban pollution. It prefers sun and well drained soil. It is drought tolerant and deer resistant. Do not over fertilize *Buddleia* or you may see lots of leaves and few flowers. This may also make a good container plant but do not over water. It is also a great addition to a shrub or mixed border or it may even be used as a specimen plant. Butterflies and humming birds do love the nectar rich flowers of this plant.

### Problems you Might Encounter

*Buddleia* is susceptible to spider mites, weevils and fungal leaf spots. Most insects are not problematic but ensure good air circulation to help avoid fungal problems.

If you are interested in a native plant alternative to the butterfly bush, try joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) in moist locations, butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) or New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*) in well drained sites.

Learn more about *Buddleia* [here](#)>