



BUTTERFLY PUDDLER HOW-TO

A few facts about butterflies

Butterflies are in the insect order Lepidoptera, which means scaly wings.

There are about 17,500 species of butterflies in the world, and around 750 species in the United States.

Butterflies are known for sipping nectar from flowers, but they also consume tree sap, dead animals, poop, animal urine, rotten fruits, and even sweat and tears for additional nutrients. Some butterflies have been seen drinking blood from open wounds on animals.



Common Blue Bottle at a puddler.

Supplies Needed

- Shallow pan or dish
- Mixture of 50% sand and manure
- Tray for fruit if desired
- Decorations if desired



Why do butterflies use a puddler?

Most of the butterflies at your puddler will be male. The males are there to ingest the minerals, salts and amino acids that the manure in your puddler provides and flower nectar does not.

These nutrients are stored in the male butterfly's sperm and are transferred to the female butterfly when they mate. The extra boost of minerals, salts and amino acids gives the developing eggs an advantage and increases the likelihood of successfully producing healthy offspring.



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Directions



1. Fill shallow tray with sand/manure mixture
2. If you desire to provide fruit, add a small plate
3. Add water until the level of the water is just below the top of the sand
4. Place over-ripe fruit on small plate
5. Decorate!



Why provide over-ripe fruit?

Butterflies LOVE fruit that is past it's prime. When the fruit goes through the decomposition process sugars and other compounds become readily available.

The fruit also becomes softer and mushier, which makes it easier for the butterflies to access the juice.



Monarchs feasting on watermelon.

Puddler Maintenance

Refresh your sand mixture weekly with additional manure.

When the ratio of sand/manure sways too far in the direction of manure, replace the sand completely.

If you're concerned about attracting animals to your yard, remove the fruit each night



What Fruit Works Best?

- Bananas
- Oranges
- Apples
- Peaches
- Nectarines
- Melon

