Beautiful Butterflies of Texas

Step inside the garden and you might be lucky enough to spot a flash of orange, a flutter of wings, or a gentle dance in the air. Butterflies are more than just prettythey're pollinators, travelers, and an important part of our ecosystem. Texas is home to hundreds of butterfly species, and at Little Country Greenhouse, you'll find many fluttering about in our very own Butterfly Cottage.

Why Butterflies Matter

Butterflies help plants grow, breed, and produce food by carrying pollen. A garden full of butterflies means clean air, healthy soil, and thriving plants.

Meet 5 Common Texas Butterflies

Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

Look for: Bright orange wings with black veins and white spots

Fun fact: They migrate up to 3,000 miles!

Where: Eggs are laid only on milkweed.

Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*)

Look for: Orange wings with black markings, silvery spots underneath

Fun fact: Caterpillars love passionflower vines

Where: Sunny gardens and open areas

Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)

Look for: Black wings with yellow spots and a bit of blue

Fun fact: Caterpillars look like they wear green stripes

Where: Herb gardens with parsley, dill, and fennel

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

Look for: Orange-and-black wings with white spots

Fun fact: Known for long-distance flights

Where: Flower beds and wildflower roadsides

Buckeye (*Junonia coenia)*

Look for: Brown wings with bold orange bars and distinctive eyespots

Fun fact: Uses its eyespots to scare off predatorsthey mimic the eyes of larger animals!i

Where: Open fields, woodland edges, roadsides, and sunny gardens across Texas

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The Life of a Butterfly

Egg - Tiny and laid on host plant leaves

Caterpillar - The munching, growing stage

Chrysalis - The transformation chamber

Butterfly - Emerges ready to fly!

How to Attract Butterflies to Your Backyard

Plant nectar-rich flowers: coneflower, lantana, zinnias, milkweed

Host plants: dill (swallowtails), milkweed (monarchs)

Puddle stations: shallow water or damp sand

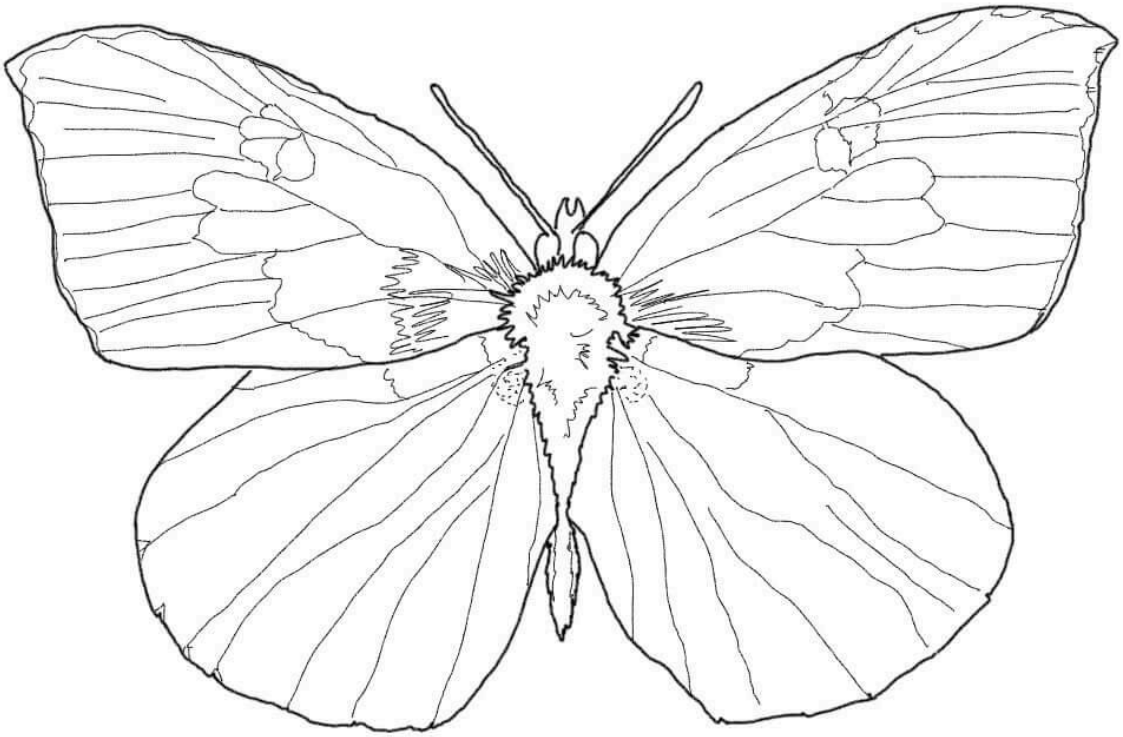
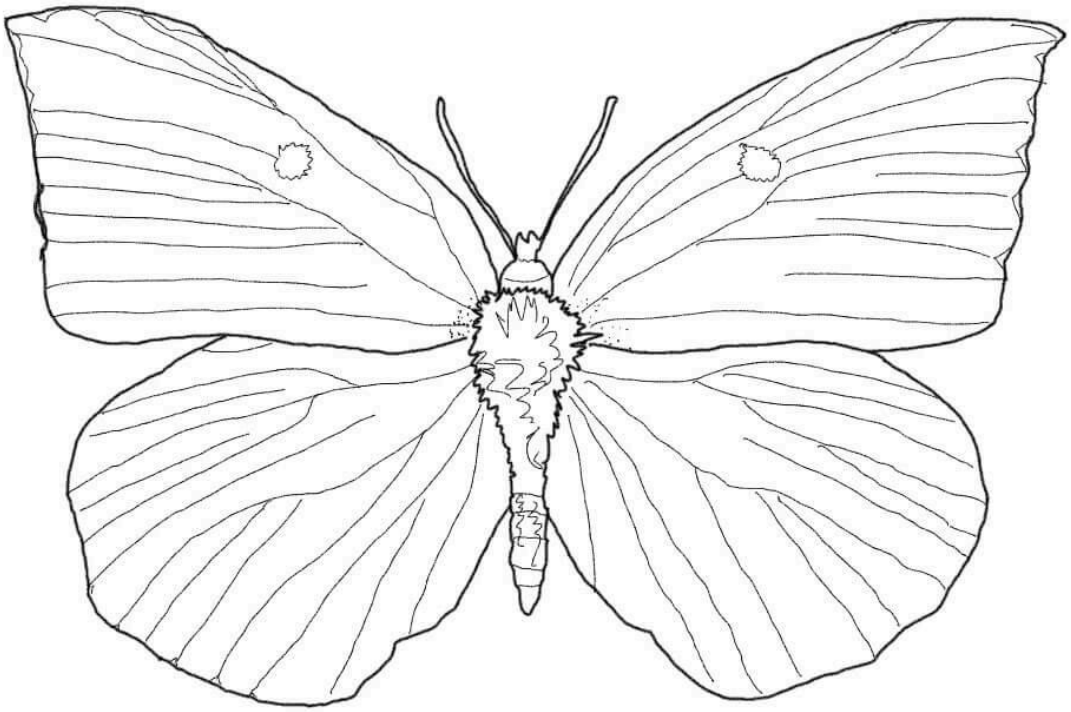
Sunny, sheltered locations

Fun Butterfly Facts

- Butterflies taste with their feet
- A group of butterflies is called a flutter
- They can see red, green, and yellow
- Wings are covered in tiny scales
- Cold-blooded and need sunshine to fly

Activity Corner

Draw your own butterfly with unique patterns and colors. Give it a name and create a story about its garden adventure!

Visit the Butterfly Cottage

Come to Little Country Greenhouse's Butterfly Cottage! Watch butterflies up close, see the life cycle in action, and enjoy a peaceful, magical space where science and nature meet.