



Butterfly Bush

Buddleja davidii

Logania Family (Loganiaceae)

Zones: 5-9

Full Sun

Moderate Water

Location: Childrens Garden, Courtyard, Floral Walk, Four Seasons Garden, Fragrance Garden, Orangerie, Rose Garden, Water Pavilion

This gorgeous shrub is one of our favorites and is called the Butterfly Bush because it provides nectar for many species of butterflies. Clusters of tiny flowers grow on spikes from 8 to 18 inches and can be a variety of colors which includes red, pink, white, yellow and purple. Butterflies are most attracted to the white cultivars. The flowers have a sweet fragrance and will bloom from early spring until the very first frost in fall.

The leaves on this bush are opposite, fuzzy, and grey-green, forming on arching stems. The flowers are often so profuse that they cause the stems to arch even more as they bloom. The plant itself can reach up to 10 feet. The bark is thin and brown, and often looks like it is peeling or splitting.

This variety of *Buddleja* can be hardy to Zone 5, but will usually suffer dieback to the ground in winter. It will regrow from the roots, but rarely back to its original size. It is advised to cut the branches back, as the flowers will grow on new wood. It prefers well-drained average soil. If the roots stay too wet, they will not survive, but the plant will thrive in fairly dry conditions.

There are many varieties of *Buddleja davidii*, and here are a few that we have planted around the Garden: 'Black Knight', 'Harlequin', 'Nanho Blue', 'Pink Delight', 'Purple Emperor', 'Royal Red', var. *nahooensis* 'Mongo' and 'Monum', and 'White Profusion'.