

Almost half of the US states have either banned the sale of butterfly bush, or classified it as a "highly invasive" problem. Being a fast grower, the butterfly bush can quickly become established in wild areas, choking out native plants.

Butterfly bushes produce thousands of very light seeds that are blown for miles by the wind. When they land in natural areas that aren't mowed, they can germinate and grow, and the cycle repeats itself.

To avoid adding to the myriad invasive (savage spreading), exotic (not living here naturally) plants already in our community, we have developed a list to help you find beautiful noninvasive alternatives:

Criteria.

- Full sun
- Survive our mountain climate
- Attract lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)
- Long bloom season
- Shrub
- Supports the life cycle of the butterfly – the butterfly bush provides food for adults but not future butterflies (i.e. caterpillars)

Sweet Pepperbush

(*Clethra alnifolia*) **NATIVE**

- Deciduous shrub. 3-8ft tall. Full sun to part shade
- Small white clustered flowers in late summer
- High quality nectar, supports butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and more
- Host plant for at least 11 species of lepidoptera
- Check out 'Ruby Spice' variety for beautiful pink bloom

Beautyberry

(*Callicarpa americana*) **NATIVE**

- Deciduous shrub. 5-10ft tall. Full sun to part shade
- Produces showy purple fruit in fall
- Flowers in clusters late spring to early summer
- A nectar plant for butterflies
- Berries provide winter food for birds
- Host plant for Spring Azure butterflies

Buttonbush

(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) **NATIVE**

- Deciduous shrub. 5-8ft tall. Full sun to part shade
- Unique pin-cushion-like flowers from June to Sept
- Likes consistently moist to even wet soil
- Good for erosion control on banks
- Attractive to butterflies, hummingbirds and bees
- Host plant for 2 gorgeous sphinx moths.

Bush Honeysuckle

(*Diervilla sessilifolia*) **NATIVE**

- Deciduous shrub. 5ft tall & wide. Full sun/part shade
- Thrives where most plants won't!
- Trumpet-shaped yellow blooms all summer
- Magnet for butterflies, hummingbirds and bees
- Round red fruit are a great wildlife food source

Bloomerang Lilac

(*Syringa*) **HYBRID LILAC**

- Deciduous shrub. Compact Form, 5 × 5ft
- Full sun to part shade
- Heavy bloom in mid May, reblooms in July and throughout summer up to first frost.
- Beautiful blooms & sweet fragrance
- Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

More options:

- Mountain Laurel
- Caryopteris
- False Indigo bush
- Hydrangeas
- Ninebark
- Virginia Sweetspire
- Spicebush
- Wildflowers: Joe Pye, Cardinal Flower, Milkweed, Passionflower, Coneflower.