

Make a butterfly feeder (1)

Golf tee feeder

This feeder is brightly coloured to attract butterflies. It contains sugar water, which is just like the nectar of a flower.

Butterflies see the world very differently from us and use special markings on flowers to help guide them to the nectar at the centre – a bit like landing lights on an aircraft runway. We can only see these markings if we look at flowers under ultraviolet lights.

The feeders should also have special runway lights to help guide the butterflies to the sugar water using ultraviolet pens.

What you need

- Ultraviolet (UV) pens (available from art shops)
- Card
- Scissors
- Golf tees
- Sugar water
- Colouring pens or paints
(do not leave feeder out in wet weather)



What to do

- 1) Draw a simple shape such as a flower or butterfly onto the card and cut it out. Decide where you want to put the golf tees and cut out small holes on the card where the tees will go.
- 2) Now decorate your feeder. Try experimenting with different colours and designs. Blue and yellow are good colours to use, but try to avoid using red because butterflies can't see that colour very well!
- 3) When the paint is dry, draw a pattern around the holes using the special UV pens. These patterns will help the butterflies find the sugar water inside the golf tees.
- 4) Next, add the golf tees. Push them through the holes in the card and stick them in place with modelling clay or plasticine. Now you can lie your feeder flat on the ground and push it down using the golf tees to keep it secure. Try and place the feeder in a place where the butterflies will be protected from predators, for example away from trees and bushes where cats and birds can hide.
- 5) Complete your feeder by adding sugar water to the golf tees. To make sugar water, dissolve some sugar in warm water. Don't make it too sweet – one part sugar to 10 parts water should be just right.
- 6) Remember to dispose of the feeder carefully once you have finished with it.

Make a butterfly feeder (2)

Plastic bottle and cap feeder

What you need

- Plastic bottle and cap
- String or garden wire
- Sugar water
- Pliers or scissors
- Small nail or drawing pin

What to do

- 1) Cut about 20cm of string/wire and place the neck of the bottle in the middle of the string/wire. Twist the wire (or tie the string) around the bottleneck until it is held tightly. Tie or twist the ends of the string/wire to make a loop, so you can hang the bottle up by its neck.
- 2) Using the nail/drawing pin, carefully make two holes in the bottom of the bottle. Try to make the holes as small as possible.
- 3) Place the bottle in a bowl and pour sugar water into the bottle. To make sugar water, dissolve some sugar in warm water. Don't make it too sweet – one part sugar to 10 parts water should be just right. Fix the cap back on the bottle and carry the bowl and bottle outside, to avoid making a mess.
- 4) Hang your bottle outside in an area where you have seen butterflies. The sugar water will slowly drip out of the bottle and the butterflies will be able to drink from the puddle it makes on the ground. Try and place the feeder in a place where the butterflies will be protected from predators, for example away from trees and bushes where cats and birds can hide.
- 5) Remember to dispose of the bottle carefully once the feeder is empty.

