

## BUTTERFLY BUSH PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Butterfly Bush
- Scientific name: *Buddleia davidii*
- Perennial; native to warm climates in Africa, Asia, North America, and South America
- Perennial shrub growing from 6–12' tall with a spread of 4–15'
- Ranges from evergreen to semi-deciduous depending on the climate
- Opposite, lance shaped gray-green leaves
- Flowers form in long, cone-shaped clusters and can be purple, white, pink, or red in color
- Flowers are irresistible to butterflies
- Hardy in zones 5–10

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers well-drained soil and dry conditions; roots may die in wet soil
- Grows well in full sun or partial shade
- Can tolerate alkaline or acidic soil
- Does not require fertilizer if planted in good garden soil
- In poor soil, fertilize the base of the shrub once early in the growing season with an all-purpose fertilizer

- In cold climates, mulch for protection in winter

### PROPAGATION

- Sow seeds in a warm, sunny location; cover lightly with soil
- Transplant seedlings when 2–4 inches of growth appear
- Very easy to root from cuttings in warm weather
- Water newly transplanted shrubs regularly until established

### DISORDERS

- Japanese beetles
  - Eat leaves and flowers
  - Handpick and remove
- Caterpillars
  - Chew holes in leaves
  - Handpick and remove
- Root rot (*Pythium sp.*)
  - Leaves turn yellow
  - Provide good soil aeration and drainage
  - Remove infected plants

### CONSUMER CARE

- Can be cut back to the ground before

winter; plants will reemerge from roots the following spring

- Pinch off spent flower clusters to prolong blooming
- Can be invasive; remove new seedlings if near a natural area

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Buddleja davidii*
  - 'Black Knight': dark purple flowers
  - 'Empire Blue': mauve-blue flowers with an orange eye
  - 'Pink Delight': large pink flower spikes
  - 'Queen's Robe': magenta-purple flowers
  - 'Royal Red': purple-red flowers
  - 'Santana': purple-red flowers, variegated leaves
  - 'Summer Beauty': rose-pink flowers
  - 'White Profusion': white flowers

## References

[http://www.floridata.com/ref/B/budd\\_dav.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/B/budd_dav.cfm)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddleia>

<http://www.yardener.com/ButterflyBush.html>

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