

SEPTEMBER 1-14, 2022 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

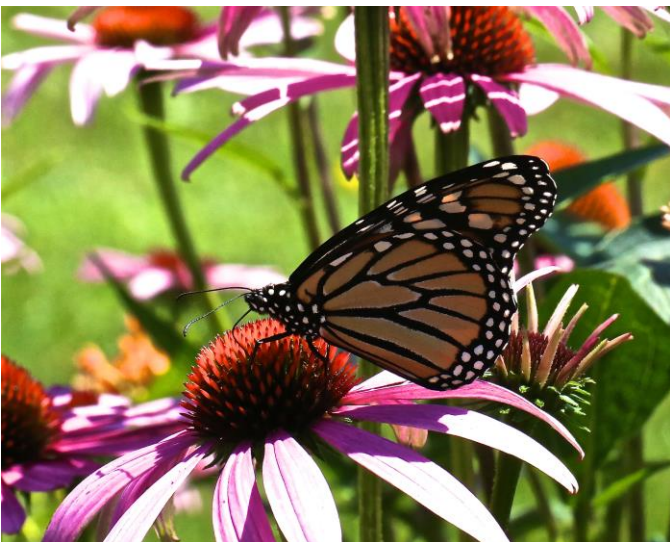
By Dick Harlow

PURPLE CONEFLOWER



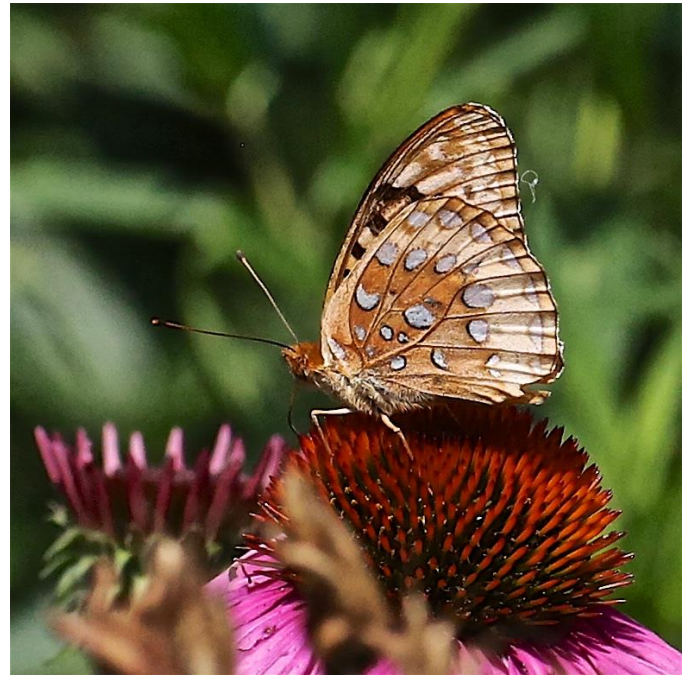
Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, from our EastView garden. © Richard Harlow

Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, is a profuse bloomer, blooming for two months from July through August and sometimes reblooming in September. This plant produces flowers and nectar that are sought after by butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.



Monarch Butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, nectaring on Purple Coneflower. © Richard Harlow

If you want to attract butterflies and birds to your garden this is one plant, you should grow. I have watched Monarchs, Viceroy's, and other butterflies nectaring on this plant. In early Fall I have watched American Goldfinches working the seed heads of this plant. This plant is a great attraction if one likes watching nature from your picture window.



Great Spangled Fritillary, *Speyeria cybele*, nectaring on Purple Coneflower. © Richard Harlow

Purple Coneflower likes full sun, although it will thrive in partial sun. As a drought resistant plant, it will tolerate our periods of little rain. When I see the leaves begin to droop, I use it as a gauge to water my gardens. The message here is begin to water the plant before the leaves droop, not wait until the leaves are actually hanging down.

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BUTTERFLY BUSH



Butterfly Bush, *Buddleia davidii*, garden,
© Richard Harlow

Butterfly Bush has been a real attraction as well as being an attractant for butterflies in our backyard. The blossoms are not covered in butterflies all the time, but when there is a species flight in your neighborhood you will definitely see that species or a group of them on your bush.



Great Spangled Fritillary Nectaring on Buddleia, © Richard Harlow

This shrub is easy to care for, but one needs to remember that in more

southern latitudes this shrub will take over the garden. In those parts of this country this shrub is considered invasive. However, up North where we have frost, snow, ice and below freezing temperatures, these conditions will kill the shrub. I plant Buddleia (Butterfly Bush) as an annual.



Monarch Nectaring on Buddleia a variety darker than the light blue davidii. © Richard Harlow



Giant Swallowtail Nectaring on Buddleia.
© Richard Harlow

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Therefore, here in Vermont one can grow Buddleia for the butterflies and not worry that we are bringing in an invasive plant..

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
Meadow Vole
Field Mouse

AMPHIBIANS

American Toad
Green Frog

BUTTERFLIES

Cabbage White
Yellow Sulphur
Monarch
Viceroy

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Average September Precipitation for Vermont = 3.62 inches.

Precipitation for first two weeks in September was 81.2 mm or 3.2 inches.

Overcast Days 1-14: We had 6 days of overcast skies. Of those overcast skies 5 days produced rain.