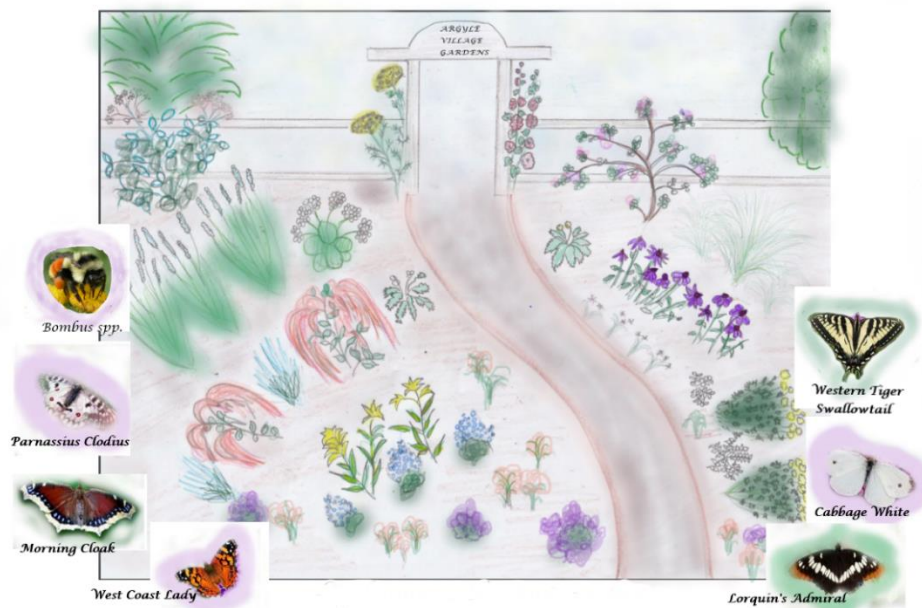


## Ambleside Butterfly Garden – An Exciting Project Ready to Bloom!

MGs planted the Ambleside Butterfly Garden in May of 2021 and it appears set to become another vibrant MG community project. Two hundred plants were planted to provide twelve-month bloom for adult butterflies and a range of larval host plants to support the caterpillar stage. The garden is planted with principally BC and regional natives with hybrids to extend blooming times. Both hybrids and species in eight genera are included so we can make observations about whether natives and hybrids within one genus equally support pollinators.

The garden is seen as an outdoor classroom for education, observation, appreciation and research with myriad programming possibilities that invite community participation of researchers, educators, gardeners, and “Citizen Scientists” to witness and discover the vital role of pollinators, the choice of appropriate plants for a West Coast urban pollinator garden and environmentally-friendly gardening. We have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/amblesidebutterflygarden>, and are working on a website, an educational app, resources for teachers and families, a new multisensory garden for children to explore, a self-directed scavenger hunt, a comprehensive resource manual developed by our MG students to be used for material development. We welcome you to visit our garden or to get involved.

Below are a few photos of the project followed by a seasonal montage of the garden with some great ideas for encouraging butterflies, humming birds and other pollinators in your garden.





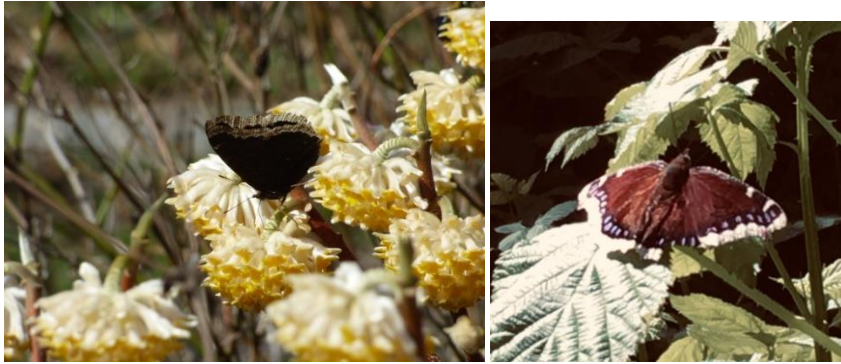
## 12 Months of Butterfly and Pollinator Vistors

### *January, February*

Edgeworthia, crocuses and Euphorbia myrsinoites are planted to provide early nectar for butterflies and early emerging queen bees that need nourishment.

Mourning cloak butterflies overwinter in our region which is very unusual. When they emerge in late January and early February, they need nourishment and are commonly seen on Edgeworthia. Why are they on blackberries- could they be laying eggs here with the blackberry leaves a larval host?

Over overwintering Anna's Hummingbirds also love Edgeworthia flowers.



***March, April***

Euphorbia myrsinoites. A valuable early nectar plant and the spurge moth larva eat the leaves.



***May, June***

We've underplanted our native nodding onion with beach strawberries that bloom at the same time. Beach strawberries are distinguished from other species by their shiny leaves and red stems. These are not only good nectar plants, but also host plants for butterfly larvae.



## ***June-July***

All pollinator gardens benefit from achillea, alliums and thistles.

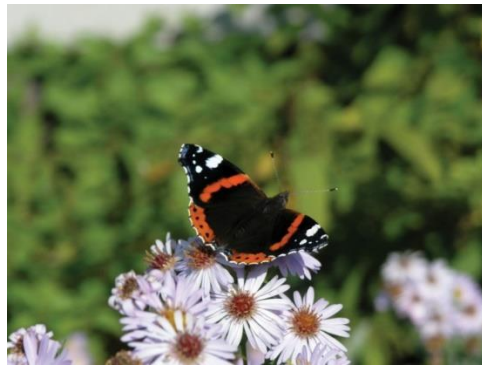
Swallowtails are commonly seen when they come to a wide range of flowers including lilacs, fireweed, Erysimum "Bowles Mauve", phlox and more. They are often confused with Monarch butterflies but Monarchs are not native to our area. We only see a Monarch if one is blown off course from Northern Washington and this is extremely rare.



### ***Late summer and Fall***

Pearly everlastings are good nectar plants and the leaves are eaten by Painted Lady and Skipper butterflies.

Many butterflies are active in the fall so Asters and Oregon Sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) are good butterfly garden additions. Our native Douglas Aster and the short, later blooming 'Purple Dome' are good garden plants.



### ***Winter***

Camelia sasanqua 'Yuletide' and evergreen Clematis cirrhosa 'Jingle Bells' are popular with our pollinators.

