

## Creating Butterfly Friendly Habitats

Certification by the MBNZT of ideal habitats for New Zealand butterflies and/or moths.

### Objectives:

- To encourage New Zealand individuals, businesses and organisations to create and sustain habitats for NZ Lepidoptera species.
- To create attractive spaces and/or interesting small habitat areas.
- To facilitate awareness, knowledge and respect for nature.
- To delight. It's what butterflies do!

### Categories:

- Butterfly Friendly Garden – private gardens
- Butterfly Friendly Business - SMEs
- Butterfly Friendly Organisation – companies, corporates and organisations

As the size and scope of the above categories varies widely, the MBNZT will allow some flexibility in the certification requirements. Whether it be a landscaped private or public garden, or a business that has unused 'wild' corners and banks around its premises, habitats can be created and nurtured.

*Applicants will be judged on what they are doing with what they have to do it with.*

We discourage people who plant up a piece of garden, then apply for certification because it'll look 'environmental aware' on their website or social media. Planting for butterflies and/or moths needs some research, ongoing commitment and perseverance.

We encourage people to research what species are suitable for the climate and conditions of their site. High-country tussock dwellers won't do well in a sunny coastal site.

Note that our aim is to boost habitats for our New Zealand endemic and native species. Indoor butterfly environments for exotic species are not eligible.

The MBNZT retains the right to withdraw Butterfly Friendly certification should previously approved sites fall below standard.

### Gold Standard

A special certificate for applicants across all three categories that also:

- Become financial members of the MBNZT (BFG as individual; BFB and BFO as corporate members).
- Have at least one person who completes the MBNZT course
- Create or purchase a butterfly house and use it to protect caterpillars from predators
- Participate in the MBNZT tagging programme
- Media story – local or national or trade publication (print / TV / radio / YouTube)
- Report on website, blogs, Facebook etc. events (e.g. first eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises etc) and including links to [www.nzbutterflies.org.nz](http://www.nzbutterflies.org.nz)

## **Butterfly Friendly Garden**

Required:

- Privately owned space
- Outdoor landscape
- Host plants for at least three Lepidoptera species, suitable for the climate and conditions
- Nectar plants for all seasons
- Provides appropriate shelter
- Natural means to discourage predators and parasites
- Established for at least three seasons (evidence needed: e.g. references, photos)
- Optional – to encourage interest and participation by visitors, signage (noticeboard, pamphlets, website or whatever) describing what species, and what host and nectar species were planted.

## **Butterfly Friendly Business**

This category encompasses a wide range of businesses, such as a café with outdoor area, camp ground, motel or medical centre, pub, car yard, quarry, factory or retail outlet, small vineyards, organic growers .....

Required: As above, but modified as:

- Business owned space. If rented, permission may be required. MBNZT will be happy to provide an explanatory letter to accompany the request.
- Host plants for three\* Lepidoptera species, suitable for the climate and conditions
- Encourage interest and participation by staff and visitors, signage (noticeboard, pamphlets, website or whatever) describing what species, and what host and nectar species were planted.

\*While three preferred, MBNZT recognises that this number of species may be unrealistic for some locations.

## **Butterfly Friendly Organisation**

This category encompasses a wide range of larger companies such as schools, tertiary institutions, councils, government agencies, hospitals, larger agricultural and horticultural companies, airports, ports, transport corridors, hotels, rest homes .....

Requirements for Butterfly Friendly Business (above).