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A SHOWCASE FOR CREATIVE LIVING
IN THE DELAWARE VALLEY

plant disease and pests before moving the plants inside. Ask your local garden centers for tips on how to nurture the tropicals through the winter.

Butterfly Gardens Taking Flight

If the stress of everyday living's got you gloomy, consider planting an uplifting butterfly garden. According to the ANLA, the last five years have seen a remarkable growth of these gardens—due in no small part to the beautiful creatures attracted to these colorful plots.

There are no great secrets to planting successful butterfly gardens. Design them with the appropriate plants in a bright, sunny location—and “they will come.” While the garden must contain nectar-producing flowers, host plants are also crucial to creating the correct butterfly environment. Host plants provide caterpillar food and egg-laying areas for adult butterflies. Local landscapers and nurseries are the best resource for plants that will do best in a butterfly garden in our region. However, you can also find basic gardening books in any

library with recommended plants and what specific varieties to include for a successful butterfly garden.

The most important thing to remember when tending any butterfly garden is to not spray pesticides. Instead, hand-pick the pests off the plants or use insecticidal soaps. Proper plant selection should mitigate the extent of pest problems, or determine which pests visit your garden. Naturalist LuAnn Craighton, an expert on the development of butterfly gardens, explains that milkweeds are “wonderful hosts for monarchs, but golden aphids [plant louse] like them too.” Nature also takes care of this problem, with milkweed bugs being especially fond of eating aphids. She adds that pest problems do vary from year to year, depending on the weather.



Talk about transformations! Joanne Kostecky's firm turned this ordinary-looking residential backyard into a lovely oasis. Photos courtesy Joanne Kostecky Garden Design Inc.



Planting carefully selected annuals adds brilliant visual interest to the pool area of this residence, once an old barn. Design and photo by Jerry Fritz Garden Design, Inc.

The best thing about a butterfly garden is watching winged visitors flit about with no seeming purpose. Nothing interrupts the breakneck pace of a hectic lifestyle like watching a butterfly garden in full swing!

Perennials—What's Not to Like?

The use of perennials in garden design has been one of the more dramatic trends in gardening over the past ten-plus years. Unlike annuals, these plants return year after year. And because of their greater variety, growth habits and longer bloom period, they are great additions to any landscape design.

Jerry Fritz Garden Design selected some of the more popular and exuberant perennials available in our area:

Rudbeckia 'Goldstrum'—a long-blooming, low maintenance, long-living perennial that likes both full sun and partial shade. The Perennial Plant Association voted 'Goldstrum' perennial plant of the year.

Euphoria Var. *Robbiae*—A spreading hardy, evergreen perennial, it has rosettes of deep green leaves and lime-green flowers in the spring. It doesn't mind dry, less than rich soil, and works well as groundcover.

Lavender 'Dilly Dilly'—Hardy, vigorous, and fragrant, its dense and symmetrical



Restored herb shed planted with spring flowering shrubs and grasses. The grasses will continue to supply visual interest in the fall. Design and photo by Jerry Fritz Garden Design, Inc.

Jerry Fritz Garden Design

Offering distinctive residential landscape design using unique high quality plants has been the mission of Jerry Fritz Garden Design since its beginnings a decade ago. Owner Jerry Fritz (pictured), a graduate of Delaware Valley College with a BS in Ornamental Horticulture, has been operating his business from its Bedminster, PA location for the past two years. The firm employs trained horticulturists whose knowledge and experience afford the guidance and expertise customers look for when working with a landscape design firm. Jerry Fritz Garden Design

prides itself on its customer-oriented services, with finished projects always reflecting the needs and wishes of its discriminating clientele. From concept to completion, education and communication with clients is their paramount concern, with the overriding aim being to always exceed customer expectations. This season, the firm spotlights newly-created display gardens featuring a restored 1740 farmhouse and courtyard hedged with boxwood and filled with lilacs, deutzias, roses, dogwoods and perennials. And Jerry Fritz Garden Design has a heated year-round greenhouse with an extensive inventory of plant material on hand.

