Galsi Mahavidyalaya

Galsi, Station Road, Purba Bardhaman,

WB-713406 (Estd. 2007)

BUTTERFLY GARDEN
OF

GALSI MAHAVIDYALAYA

Prepared by

The College Environmental Committee

&

Approved by

The IQAC,

Galsi Mahavidyalaya, Galsi

Butterfly Garden

About 2.92 acres of the campus has been kept open to maintain a lush green and clean environment of the college. A vast area of the college is covered by a pond, the banks of which are filled up with natural vegetations and varieties of planted trees. Apart from this, the college has developed two beautiful gardens which are well maintained throughout the year. These gardens have been well decorated with heterogeneity of flowering and decorative plants. These gardens filled with colourful flowering plants serve as the host for various types of butterflies of the locality. This butterfly gardening not only provides a recreational activity to view butterflies interacting with the environment but also curb the impacts of habitat fragmentation and degradation. Habitat degradation is a multivariate issue; which has increased manifold with the modernization of the civilization, increased use of pesticides and herbicides, woody encroachment, and non-native plants leading to the decline in butterfly and pollinator habitat. Pollination is one ecological service butterflies provide; about 90% of flowering plants and 35% of crops rely on animal pollination. Creating new habitat reduces the impacts of habitat fragmentation and degradation. A butterfly garden provides habitat that increases the diversity of butterflies and other pollinators to create, improve, and maintain habitat of the butterflies. It helps to increase the number and diversity of butterflies in our immediate surroundings which in turn creates a healthy ecosystem.

But there are more reasons to help conserve butterflies. Benefits of butterflies include:

- Butterflies are important pollinators. Approximately one-third of all plants need pollination to set fruit, and bees and butterflies are major pollinators. Flower nectar is the food for adult butterflies and by flying from flower-to-flower sipping nectar, pollination occurs.
- Butterflies serve as a barometer of how the environment is doing. Through their delicate nature, butterfly numbers can decrease quickly when something is amiss in the ecosystem. By studying butterfly populations, scientists are alerted early to problems affecting all living things, including humans.
- Gardening for butterflies means reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides. This in turn will bring more beneficial wildlife to the garden, such as spiders, ladybugs, praying mantids and dragonflies.
- Butterflies assist with the cycle of life. Butterflies at all stages are a food source for other animals in the food chain such as birds, lizards, frogs, toads, wasps, and bats, among others.
- They provide educational value. Their metamorphosis from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly is a great teaching tool. Schoolchildren often study them as an introduction to the wonders of nature. Butterflies bring an awareness of nature to those who observe them, as well as joy and relaxation.

Thus the primary benefits of designing butterfly gardens are:

- **Landscape for aesthetic**:

  It provides a peaceful place to enjoy. Butterflies bring a sense of excitement to a flower garden and are relaxing and uplifting at the same time. Butterfly gardens are a simple and easy way to improve people's quality of life and beautify a community or backyard.

- **For conservation of butterflies:**

  For the conservation of wildlife, Establishment of butterfly garden helps to increase butterfly diversity and abundance in urban as well as in suburban areas and conserving species that might otherwise become rare or even disappear.
- **Flower pollination:**

  Butterflies also serve as flower pollinators and attracting the butterflies can also assist in the pollination of nearby plants
- **Food sharing:**

  These insects also provide food for other organisms, for example; birds, reptiles amphibians and also acts as biological pest control
- **Public education:**

  Butterfly gardening can also serve as an educational opportunity for children and can be a relatively safe way to introduce them to the natural world.
  As job training they are used to teach general as well as specialized job skill.
- **Gardening for recreation therapy:**

  Butterfly gardening can be used in a therapeutic setting to meet the need of different population. As therapy, horticultural activities are used in treatment programme with defined goal for patients. Butterfly gardening can be used as a recreational programmes in nursing homes or senior citizen centers.
- **Financial gain :** as a result of the increasing value of eco-friendly property.

LIST OF PLANTS IN THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

SL.NO	NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	TYPE	NUMBER
1.	Patabahar	Codiaeum variegatum	ORNAMENTAL	Plenty
2.	Tagor	Tabernaemontana coronaria	ORNAMENTAL	02
3.	Cycus	Cycas circinalis	ORNAMENTAL	04
4.	Furcaria	Furcraea foetida	ORNAMENTAL	Plenty
5.	Golden Duranta	Duranta erecta	ORNAMENTAL	DO
6.	Peruvian lily(Inca)	Alstroemeria aurea	ORNAMENTAL	DO
7.	Chandramallika	Chrysanthemum	ORNAMENTAL	Plenty
8.	Transvaal daisy	Gerbera	ORNAMENTAL	DO
9.	Common sage	Salvia officinalis	ORNAMENTAL	DO
10.	Begonia	Begonia spp.	ORNAMENTAL	DO
11.	Common garden pitunia	Atkinsiana Surfinia	ORNAMENTAL	DO
12.	Garden Pansy	Viola wittrockiana	ORNAMENTAL	DO
13.	Dahlia	Dahlia pinnata	ORNAMENTAL	DO
14.	Nayantara	Catharanthus roseus	ORNAMENTAL	DO
15.	Night Jasmine (Raganigandha)	Nyctanthes arbortristis	ORNAMENTAL	DO
16.	Sunflower	Helianthus doronicoides	ORNAMENTAL	DO
17.	Sword Lily	Gladiolus dalenii / natalensis	ORNAMENTAL	DO
18.	Rose	Rosa rubiginosa	ORNAMENTAL	DO
19.	Dianthus	Dianthus chinensis	ORNAMENTAL	DO
20.	Cosmos	Cosmos bipinnatus	ORNAMENTAL	DO
22.	Gazenia	Gazania rigens	ORNAMENTAL	DO
23.	Holyhock	Althea rosea	ORNAMENTAL	DO
24.	Phlox	Phlox paniculata	ORNAMENTAL	DO

PHOTO GALLERY