



GRATITUDE ECO-HOMESTAY

Butterfly Handbook





Welcome to the World of Butterflies!

Butterflies are among the most colourful and graceful creatures in nature. Watching them flutter through the garden is calming, inspiring, and a beautiful way to connect with the natural world.

More than just pretty wings, butterflies are vital to the ecosystem – they pollinate plants, support the food chain, and indicate the health of the environment.

At our homestay, we've planted a mix of host and nectar plants to attract and support a variety of butterfly species. These plants provide food and shelter for both caterpillars and adults, helping them thrive naturally.

Sadly, rapid urbanisation is shrinking their habitats. By creating butterfly-friendly spaces, we help protect biodiversity and bring nature closer to us.

Butterflies, like all wild creatures, are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. They are to be enjoyed in the wild – not caught or kept.

The best time to observe butterflies is mid-morning (around 9–11 AM) on warm, sunny days with little or no wind. The peak butterfly season here is from August to November, though some species can be seen throughout the year.

Take a moment to slow down and enjoy their gentle dance – nature's quiet reminder to live simply and joyfully.





About Butterflies in Maharashtra

India is home to around 1,500 butterfly species, with about 230 recorded in Maharashtra. Of these, around 150 species are seen in Mumbai, and Pune.

Here in Dahuli, our natural surroundings support a rich variety of butterflies. We've planted host and nectar plants to help them thrive.

Sadly, their numbers are declining due to habitat loss, especially in urban areas. Creating and protecting spaces like this is key to their survival.

State butterfly of Maharashtra is Blue Mormon



Blue Mormon



Host Plants

Host plants are the specific plants that butterfly caterpillars (larvae) feed on. Adult butterflies lay their eggs on these plants because the emerging caterpillars need them as their only or primary food source. Each butterfly species has preferred or exclusive host plants – without these, they cannot complete their life cycle. A single species of butterfly may use one or several species of plants as host plants.

Host Plants are important because caterpillars only eat host plants, not nectar plants.

No host plants = no caterpillars = no butterflies.

Planting both host and nectar plants creates a complete butterfly habitat.





Kadhi patta/Curry Leaves

Botanical Name: MURRAYA KOENIGII



COMMON MORMON



APE FLY



LIME BUTTERFLY



Nimbu/Lemon

Botanical Name: CITRUS LEMON



BLUE MORMON



COMMON BANDED PEACOCK



COMMON MORMON



LIME BLUE BUTTERFLY



LIME BUTTERFLY



Pathar Chatta/Bryophyllum

Botanical Name: KALANCHOE SECT. BRYOPHYLLUM



RED PIERROT



Krishna Kamal/Passion Flower

Botanical Name: PASSIFLORA INCARMATA



TAWNY COSTER



Akman/Milkweed

Botanical Name: CALOTROPIS GIGANTEA



PLAIN TIGER



GLASSY TIGER



BLUE TIGER



Champa/Golden Champa

Botanical Name: MAGNOLIA CHAMPACA



TAILED JAY



COMMON JAY



Amrood/Guava

Botanical Name: PSIDIUM GUAJAVA



COMMON GUAVA BLUE



LARGE GUAVA BLUE



Chitrak/Doctor Bush

Botanical Name: PLUMBAGO ZEYLANICA



ZEBRA BLUE



Ashoka/False Ashoka

Botanical Name: **MONOON LONGIFOLIUM**



TAILED JAY



COMMON JAY



Neem

Botanical Name: *AZADIRACHTA INDICA*



JEZEBEL



Rukmani/Ixora

Botanical Name: IXORA COCCINEA



MONKEY PUZZLE



Arandi/Castor

Botanical Name: RICINUS COMMUNIS



COMMON CASTOR



Yellow Alder

Botanical Name: TURNERA ULMIFOLIA



TAWNY COSTER



Badak Vel/Badak Bel

Botanical Name: *ARISTOLOCHIA LITTORALIS*



COMMON ROSE



CRIMSON ROSE



SOUTHERN BIRDWING



Nectar Plants

Nectar plants are flowering plants that produce nectar, a sugary liquid that serves as a key food source for adult butterflies and bees.

For butterflies, nectar plants are essential as they provide energy for flying, mating, and laying eggs.

Different butterfly species are attracted to different types of flowers based on color, scent, and shape.

These plants are typically bright and fragrant, making them highly attractive to butterflies. Including them in your home garden ensures a steady food supply for adult butterflies, especially when planted alongside host plants (which caterpillars feed on).





Nectar Plants



SADABAHAR



IXORA



MARIGOLD



COSMOS



**BLUE SNAKE WEED/
JAMACIAN BLUE SPIKE**



PENTAS



LANTANA



HIBISCUS



GOLDEN DURANTA



COCKCOMB



BUTTERFLY BUSH



Find stillness in nature's gentle rhythm

Hope you enjoyed going through our handbook

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