

'Miss Violet' Butterfly bush *Buddleia* x

FEATURES

Perfectly purple blooms on a perfectly sized plant.

Just like her sisters, 'Miss Molly' and 'Miss Ruby', 'Miss Violet' is a compact plant with vibrant flower color, but with loads of dark purple-violet summer flowers. Seedless and non-invasive; deer resistant, too! Winner of a Green Thumb award from the Direct Gardening Association.

Top reasons to grow Miss Violet butterfly bush:

- 4-5' (1.2-1.5m) height is perfect for landscaping around your home
- non-invasive butterfly magnet
- electric violet flowers all summer long

Fragrant Flower

Heat Tolerant

Attracts: Bees, Butterflies, Hummingbirds

Resists: Deer

CHARACTERISTICS

Plant Type: Shrub

Shrub Type: Deciduous

Height Category: Medium

Garden Height: 48 - 60 Inches

Spacing: 48 - 60 Inches

Spread: 48 - 60 Inches

Flower Colors: Purple

Flower Shade: dark purple-violet

Foliage Colors: Green

Foliage Shade: green

Habit: Mounded

Container Role: Thriller

PLANT NEEDS

Light Requirement: Sun

Maintenance Category: Easy

Blooms On: New Wood

Bloom Time: Summer through Fall

Hardiness Zones: 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b, 9a, 9b

Water Category: Average, Needs Good Drainage

Soil Fertility Requirement: Average Soil

Uses: Border Plant, Landscape

Uses Notes: Mixed borders; perennial beds; wildlife gardens

Fun Facts:

This non-invasive variety is approved for sale in Oregon and Washington, though it will be called a "summer lilac" instead of a "butterfly bush."

'Miss Violet' *Buddleia* x USPP 28,448, Can 5,950

BUTTERFLY BUSH CARE

Butterfly bush are easy to grow, but you do need to know a bit about their preferences and requirements to achieve maximum success.

1. **Butterfly bush need full sun.** When we say full sun, we mean it – butterfly bush requires a minimum of 8 hours of bright sunlight. Even in warm climates, plant them where they get no fewer than 6 hours of sun.
2. **Butterfly bush need perfect drainage.** Their roots are sensitive to rotting, and if they spend any amount of time in wet soil, they can be set back or even die. Most of the time, if you lose a butterfly bush after winter, it wasn't due to low temperatures or snow or ice – it was because the plant sat in cold, wet soil in fall or spring.
3. **Butterfly bush can grow in clay soil**, but require a few special accommodations. Because they need good drainage and dislike cold wet conditions, there are a few tips that will increase your success with butterfly bush if you have clay soil:
 - Never amend the soil. Don't add top soil, potting soil, compost or anything at planting time. Plant directly into your natural soil. This is true for all

shrubs, but is even more important with butterfly bush, as amending any soil, and particularly clay soil, can cause drainage problems.

- Plant “high” – instead of positioning the plant even with the ground level like you would other plants, dig a slightly shallower hole (yep, that means less work!) and position it so that the base of the plant is a bit higher than the ground. This creates a small “hill” that encourages water to drain away from the plant rather than settle around it.
 - Avoid mulching directly around your butterfly bush. Mulch is a great idea for other species of plants, but in clay soil, it can hold too much moisture. Go ahead and mulch your beds, but give your butterfly bush a bit of clearance, and never mulch all the way up to the main stems.
4. **Prune in spring, after the new growth emerges.** Many people cut their butterfly bush back in autumn, as part of their fall clean up. But particularly in cold climates, this can leave your butterfly bush more susceptible to damage over winter. Do not prune until you see green buds on the stems. Make your cuts just above where big, healthy leaf buds have formed. It can take several weeks into spring for new growth to show up - be patient and resist the urge to cut them back too early.
 5. **But do prune your butterfly bush.** Left unpruned, large butterfly bushes can become “second story” plants: their flowers form way up at the top so you can’t enjoy them unless you have a second story window. The warmer your climate, the more you should cut back your butterfly bush each spring. Even dwarf varieties like our Lo & Behold® series still need pruning – you’ll just be cutting back less than you would on a variety that reaches 8’ tall.
 6. **Be patient.** Butterfly bushes tend to be one of the later plants to leaf out in spring. Even if everything else in your landscape is turning green, that doesn’t mean you’ve lost your butterfly bush. Many people recommend waiting til as late as Father’s Day (the third Sunday in June) to be certain their butterfly bush perished. It can be very surprising to see how quickly a butterfly bush can recover, even if it takes that long to come back! Learn more about this phenomenon in our article, [Plants that Push the Snooze Button on Spring](#).
 7. **Don’t overwater.** Particularly if you have clay soil, watch watering carefully. If you have an irrigation system, be sure it’s not inundating your butterfly bush. Signs of overwatering include weak stems, fewer flowers, and dieback.
 8. **Avoid fall planting.** Because butterfly bush may get a bit of winter damage in cold climates, it’s best to give them as long a time as possible to get established before they face the challenges of the cold, wet season. In USDA zones 5 and 6 especially, keep butterfly bush planting time to spring through mid-summer so the plants have ample opportunity to develop a good root system to sustain them through winter.