



Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program

Butterfly Garden Fall Maintenance Checklist

Below are the supplies/tools needed to complete each maintenance task along with an estimated cost, an estimated amount of time needed to accomplish each task, and the frequency each task should be done.

Task Description	Supplies/Tools Needed	Estimated Cost	Est. Time Needed	Frequency of Task
WEEKLY FALL MAINTENANCE TIPS				
Look for caterpillars and chrysalises on the host plants. Optional: Report your findings on Journey North's website.	n/a	n/a	30 min	Once or twice per week
Create and/or fill a puddling station with sand and sugar water inside a pie pan.	Pie Pan, Sand & 1:4 Sugar water	\$5	5 min	Once
Pull weeds - do not remove any host plants.	Gloves	n/a	15-30 min	Once
AUGUST				
Update your Butterfly Garden Plant ID Map if needed. Contact your OC Consultant or Master Gardeners for ID assistance.	Your Butterfly Garden Plant ID Map	n/a	Up to 1 hour	Once
Remove diseased plants - not damaged host plants. Contact your Extension office for advice.	Gloves & Pruners	n/a	30 min	Once
SEPTEMBER				
Leave seed heads on dying or dead plants as food for birds. Ex. Black-eyed Susans and Coneflower	n/a	n/a	n/a	Once
Check paint/sealer on items such as plant ID signs. Touch up if needed.	Paint and/or Sealer	\$5-10	1 hour	Once
OCTOBER				
Divide and share perennials plants if overgrown.	Hand Spade or Small Shovel	n/a	30 min - 1 hour	Once
Replace dead perennials if needed.	Hand Spade, Small Shovel	Plant costs Vary	1 hour	Once
Add newspaper as a weed barrier around plants & lay mulch on top to help protect plants in winter.	Mulch and Newspaper	\$2 per cu. ft. bag	30 min - 1 hour	Once
Water any new plants for 4-6 weeks.	Garden hose	n/a	20 min	Twice
NOVEMBER				
Collect remaining seed heads for spring planting.	n/a	n/a	15 min	Once
Remove dead plant material after the first frost.	Gloves	n/a	30 min	Once
DECEMBER				
Update the Garden Plant ID Map if needed.	Plant ID Map	n/a	15 min	Once