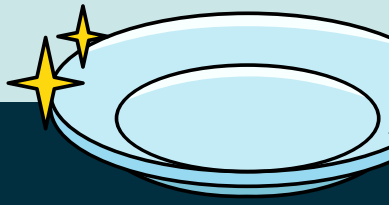
Make a Butterfly Feeder

Have you ever wondered how butterflies get their food? Most people think they only drink nectar from flowers, but some butterflies also love feeding on sweet, juicy fruit!

You can make your own butterfly fruit feeder to encourage these beautiful insects to visit your garden. Then sit back, watch carefully and see who comes to say hello!

You will need:

- An orange, banana or apple (slightly overripe fruit is even better!)
- A small plate, plant pot saucer or shallow dish
- String or garden twine (optional)
- A hole punch or knitting needle (adult help only, if hanging the fruit)
- A notebook to record your butterfly visitors



How to make your butterfly feeder

Step 1 - Prepare the fruit

Ask an adult to help cut the fruit in half or into thick slices. If you're using a banana, you can leave the peel on. If you're using an orange or apple, simply cut it into chunky slices. Overripe fruit is perfect because it's extra sweet and soft.

Step 2 – Make your butterfly café

You have two choices:

Option 1 – Plate Café (the easiest!)
Place your fruit onto a shallow plate or saucer. Set it in a sunny, sheltered spot in your garden, close to flowers or shrubs if possible.

Option 2 – Hanging Fruit Feeder
Ask an adult to carefully make a small hole through the fruit. Thread some string through the hole and tie a knot. Hang your fruit from a low tree branch or sturdy bush where you can watch it safely.

Step 3 – Watch and wait!

Now it's time to become a Butterfly Detective! Sit quietly a few metres away and watch your feeder. Butterflies can be easily frightened, so staying still gives you the best chance of seeing one.

Don't worry if they don't visit straight away - they may take a little time to discover your butterfly café.

newton clarke veterinary surgeons