

## Butterfly bush

### *Buddleja davidii*

#### Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental.  
Very attractive to butterflies.

#### Habit

Large, weeping form, can grow 3-12 ft in height  
and spread 4-15 ft.

#### Leaves

Opposite, lance-shaped leaves (6-10 in), margins  
finely toothed, grow on long arching stems,  
gray-green above in color with a white-tomentose  
lower surface.

#### Stems

Woody, pubescent, off white to light brown in  
color, arching, 3-12 ft tall and 4-15 ft wide.

#### Flowers

Small, tubular with four petals, fragrant and borne  
in long, erect or nodding spikes, 8-18 in with  
cone-shaped clusters that droop. Clusters can be  
so profuse that they cause the branches to arch







even more. Purple, white, pink or red in color and usually have an orange throat in the center; blooms mid-to late summer until frost.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Small capsules.

### **Habitat**

Native to China; grows well in well drained, average soil such as surface mined lands, coastal forest edges, roadsides, abandoned railroads, rural dumps, and stream and river banks.

### **Reproduction**

By seeds that are produced in large quantities and dispersed by wind.

### **Similar**

Lindley's butterfly bush (*Buddleja lindleyana*), can also become invasive once escaped.

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand pick seedlings or dig out where possible. Big plants may be difficult to dig out. Cut plants and treat stumps with any of several readily available general use herbicides such as triclopyr or glyphosate. Goats eat this plant and can be managed over 3-4 years. A species of weevil, *Cleopus japonicus* was tested and showed potential control as well as a species of stem boring beetle, *Mecyslobus erro*.

### **Credits**

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the UConn Horticulture Plant Database. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).