

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

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