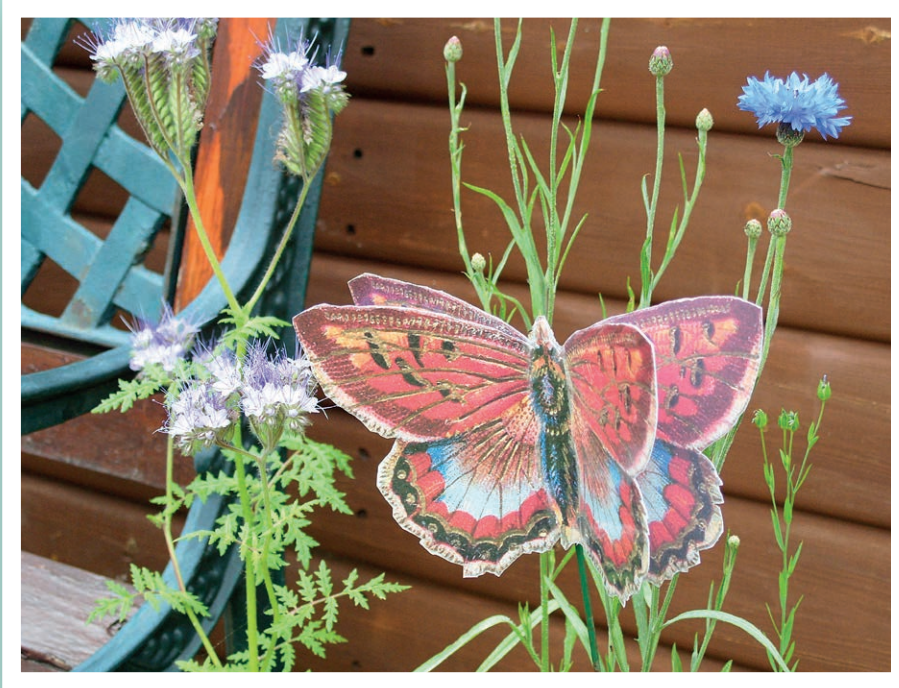


3D Garden Butterflies Take Flight!



To create your own 3D butterflies you will need:

- Butterfly designs
- 80 micron or 125 micron laminating pouches
- A4 or A3 Laminator
- Scissors
- Silicone craft adhesive
- Paper trimmer or ruler for scoring and folding

We all love to see butterflies in our garden, but nowadays, unfortunately, their visits don't seem to be as frequent as they used to be. Here's a way of enjoying their presence in your garden every day, whilst adding a touch of creativity to your plants, pots and borders.

There are lots of images of colourful butterflies online, and providing you aren't using them for commercial purposes you can use them to create a distinctive 3D decoration. I'm especially fond of the Victorian style illustrations which I've now used to great effect on numerous occasions. Alternatively you can always create your own illustrations – and this is something children really enjoy doing. So whether you've sourced an image online or drawn your own, here's how to turn it into 3D realism in six easy steps.

Step 1

Once you've chosen the butterfly illustration/ image you'd like to use, print or photocopy the image twice.

Step 2

Neatly cut around the border of your butterfly before inserting into your laminating pouch. Laminate and then leave to cool for a few seconds before step 3. I find that 125 microns (2 x 125) works best for some rigidity.

Top Laminating Tip: by cutting the printed shape out before laminating, it means that you can leave a nice even laminated border around your final shape. This will keep your materials looking great for longer, especially if you will keep them outside. Remember – never cut the laminating pouch around your shape before laminating. It's simple; cut your paper *before* and your pouch *after*!

Step 3

Neatly cut the laminated pouch around the shape of each image leaving a nice even border around your butterfly. There's no hiding from the fact that it's quite tricky cutting around the small antennae of the butterfly, but just try and keep a steady hand.

Step 4

Now you have two laminated flat images of the same butterfly. Take one of them and bend each wing upwards from head to tail. You may find it helpful to score down the creases, a Fellowes SafeCut Cartridge and trimmer would work great for this. Bend the wings upwards until they hold in your preferred position. If necessary, use the flat edge of a ruler to improve the creasing.

Step 5

Apply a strip of silicone craft adhesive down the unprinted spine of the butterfly with upward wings, and fix into position down the middle of the flat butterfly. Firmly press the two surfaces together and hold in position for several seconds before leaving to dry.

Step 6

When the glue is dry and the two images are securely fixed, the 3D butterfly can now be positioned with adhesive on a stick, stake, plant pot, shed or fence.

