

Choosing plants for Wildlife



When choosing plants for your landscape, you may want to take into consideration the wildlife that may visit your yard. You can design your yard to either attract desirable wildlife, such as birds and butterflies, or you may want to choose plants that are not desired by animals like deer that can damage your plants.



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ATTRACTING BIRDS

Many people enjoy watching birds and list bird watching as one of their favorite activities. As people learn to enjoy the beauty of bird life around their homes, they may wish to improve their yards so that more birds will visit the property. Remember, birds can also play a key role in controlling insect populations. Birds are attracted to feeders, nest boxes, and birdbaths, and adding these handcrafted objects will certainly increase the number of birds visiting the property. Birds are also attracted to the vegetation on the property. Plants are important to birds because they provide good nesting sites, winter shelter, places to hide from predators, and natural food supplies that are available year-round. Planting a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers is a great way to increase the number of bird species that will visit your backyard. The following is a list of plants that will help attract birds to your yard:

PERENNIALS

Columbine
Coralbell
Delphinium
Dianthus
Globe Thistle
Lupine
Lychnis

Monarda
Penstemon
Phlox, Garden
Poppy
Rudbeckia
Salvia
Veronica

SHRUBS

Barberry
Buffaloberry
Burning Bush
Caragana
Chokeberry
Cotoneaster
Cranberry Bush
Currant
Dogwood
Elderberry
Gooseberry

Honeysuckle
Kinnikinnick
Nanking Cherry
Raspberry
Russian Olive
Sandcherry
Serviceberry
Snowberry
Sumac
Viburnum

TREES

Ash
Birch
Burr Oak
Cherry, Canada Red
Crabapple
Dogwood
Hackberry
Hawthorn

Lilac, Tree
May Day Tree
Mountain Ash
Nannyberry
Plum
Russian Olive
Serviceberry
Winterberry (Euonymus)

VINES

Engelmen Ivy
Grape Vine

Virginia Creeper

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES

Gardening to create a place where butterflies will come and stay can be a very rewarding experience. The sensitive gardener will appreciate the butterfly not only for its beauty, but for the function it serves in pollination of plants in general, helping to preserve species, generation after generation. Keep in mind that before you have butterflies, you will have caterpillars in your garden. When we see caterpillars feeding on our plants we have to learn to tell ourselves, 'this is a good thing'. A butterfly garden can be as simple as a container garden placed in just the right spot or as elaborate as a formal garden setting. One of the most important aspects of your garden is choosing the right plants. The following plants will help attract butterflies to your garden:

PERENNIALS

Agastache
Aster
Bleeding Heart
Butterfly Flower
Candytuft
Catananche
Catmint
Cimicifuga
Columbine
Coral Bell
Coreopsis
Daisy
Daylily
Delphinium
Dianthus
Echinacea
Gaillardia
Geranium

Geum
Helianthus
Hyssop
Joe Pye Weed
Liatris
Ligularia
Lupine
Monarda
Penstemon
Phlox
Rockrose
Rudbeckia
Russian Sage
Salvia
Scabiosa
Sedum
Thrift
Yarrow

SHRUBS

Butterfly Bush
Caryopteris
Chokeberry
Currant
Dogwood
Elderberry

Lilac
Mockorange
Potentilla
Serviceberry
Snowberry
Sumac
Viburnum

TREES

Alder
Ash
Birch
Black Walnut
Box Elder
Bur Oak
Cherry, Canada Red

Crabapple
Hawthorn
Linden
Nannyberry
Ohio Buckeye
Poplar

VINES

Honeysuckle

“DEER PROOF” PLANTS??

There has been extensive research on deer resistant plants, but the results seem to be inconclusive. What is termed deer resistant in one study is called deer food in another. It is also stated that no matter how deer resistant a plant can be in one location, on a game trail that plant may be devoured. When hungry, deer eat just about anything, but it is best not to tempt them with plants they find particularly attractive. The research studies have found the following plants as **non-preferred** by deer.

PERENNIALS

Ajuga	Lady's Mantle
Anemone	Lamium
Artemesia	Lavender
Aster	Liatris
Astilbe	Lily
Baby's Breath	Lily of the Valley
Basket of Gold	Lungwort
Bergenia	Lupine
Bleeding Heart	Lychnis
Calla Lily	Lysimachia
Candytuft	Monarda
Catmint	Oenothera
Centaurea	Painted Daisy
Columbine	Pasqueflower
Coral Bells	Penstemon
Coreopsis	Peony
Creeping Jenny	Phlox (creeping)
Daffodil (Narcissus)	Poppy (oriental)
Daylily	Potentilla
Delphinium	Purple Coneflower
Dianthus	Queen of the Prairie
Echinacea	Rockcress
Fern	Rudbeckia
Forget-me-not	Russian Sage
Foxglove	Salvia
Gaillardia	Scabiosa
Geum	Shasta Daisy
Grass, Blue Fescue	Silver Mound (Sage)
Grass, Blue Oat	Sisyrinchium
Grass, Feather Reed	Snow-in-the-Summer
Grass, Flame	Snow-on-the-Mountain
Grass, Ribbon	Soapwort
Geranium	Spurge
Grape Hyacinth	Sunflower
Helenium	Sweet Woodruff
Hen's & Chicks	Thrift
Iris	Thyme
Jacob's Ladder	Veronica
Joe Pye Weed	Violet
Kinnikinnick (Bearberry)	Vinca
	Yarrow



SHRUBS

Barberry	Pine
Burning Bush	Potentilla
Butterfly Bush	Sage
Caragana	Smokebush
Caryopteris	Snowberry
Chokeberry	Spirea
Cotoneaster	Spruce
Currant	Sumac (fragrant)
Dogwood	Summersweet
Elder	Viburnum (Cranberry)
Gooseberry	Yew
Juniper	

TREES

Ash, White and Green	Honeylocust
Birch	Maple
Box Elder	Oak
Buckeye, Ohio	Spruce
Fir	
Ginkgo	
Hackberry	
Hawthorn	

VINES

Bittersweet	Trumpet Creeper
Clematis	Virginia Creeper
Grape	
Honeysuckle	

OTHER DEER DETERENTS

If you do have plants in your landscape that deer prefer, there are many ways to deter the deer and minimize the damage to your plants.

Perhaps the best way to keep deer out of your garden or yard is to install a fence. “Deer-D-Fence” is a product we recommend. It is a lightweight, mesh fence that is easy to install and very strong. Because of the mesh design, the fence is visually unobtrusive. No matter what kind of fence you install, make sure it is at least 6 feet high.

Deer can also cause considerable damage to tree trunks from rubbing their antlers on them. You can deter deer from rubbing on trunks by installing a wire mesh tree guard. Make sure it covers the trunk from the ground to the first set of branches. This is also very effective against damage caused by beavers and porcupine. When you install the mesh, be sure it is loose on the trunk and check it periodically and loosen it as the tree grows.

There are many sprays on the market that can be effective in preventing damage caused by deer. Some that we recommend are: Plantskydd, Deer Away and Hot Pepper Wax. In order to achieve the best effect, spray new plants right after you plant them, before the deer can get a taste. Be sure to spray the tender new growth and the spray may need to be reapplied after a heavy rain. You can also make your own spray:

Rotten Egg Spray

2 eggs	2 cups water
1-4 cloves garlic	2 Tbs. Tabasco

Puree garlic and water in blender. Add eggs and Tabasco and process mixture thoroughly. Allow to sit, covered, for several days. Spray on plants and soil.

Pepper Spray

2 Tbs. Tabasco	1 gallon water
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Wilt Stop (mixed as directed)
Mix all ingredients together and apply.

Many people also swear by other methods, including hanging bars of heavily perfumed soap, items of old sweaty clothing, or linen bags filled with human hair from the tips of tree branches. This sometimes works for a week or so until the deer become accustomed to the scent. Dried blood or blood meal sprinkled around the garden border also works for a few days until the deer get used to the smell, and must be reapplied after a heavy rain. Remember that no plant is safe if the deer are hungry enough.



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