

Planting to Attract Birds

There is a wide variety of plants that are not only attractive additions in your landscape, but as a bonus they attract birds into your yard. In addition to being beautiful and fascinating, many birds are voracious eaters of insects. Birds also play an important role in the pollination of some flowers. By incorporating the right plants, you can encourage birds to be an everyday part of your garden.

When selecting plants to attract birds, it is important to consider food, water and shelter. Depending on the type of bird, their natural foods are seeds, fruits, insects, nuts and nectar. For water, birds need bird baths, puddles or shallow ponds. For shelter, birds seek a safe place from the elements and predators. Evergreens provide excellent shelter as do thick shrubs and vines.

Try to think in terms of the seasons and select a variety of plants that will provide food for as much of the year as possible. Plants that hold their fruit into the winter are very important. If you are considering a flowering crabapple, check the varieties with “persistent” fruit. You may need to supplement their food for the Winter, but with careful selection of plants, your garden should be able to provide needs.



Medium – Large Trees

- Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*
- Birch *Betula*
- Blue Beech *Carpinus*
- Catalpa *Catalpa*
- Hackberry *Celtis occidentalis*
- Black Walnut *Juglans nigra*
- Green Ash *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
- Oak *Quercus*
- Norway Pine *Pinus resinosa*
- White Pine *Pinus strobus*
- Willow *Salix*

Medium and large trees can provide shelter, nesting sites, sap and seeds.

Small Trees

- Amur Maple *Acer ginnala*
- Serviceberry *Amelachier*
- Hawthorne *Crataegus*
- Russian Olive *Elaeagnus*
- Juniper *Juniperus*
- Apple *Malus*
- Crabapple *Malus*
- Mulberry *Morus*
- Plum *Prunus*
- Cherries *Prunus*
- Apricots *Prunus*
- Chokecherry *Prunus virginiana*
- Pear *Pyrus*
- Mountain Ash *Sorbus*



Shrubs

- Amur Maple *Acer ginnala*
- Serviceberry *Amelachier*
- Chokeberry *Aronia*
- Barberry *Berberis*
- Gray Dogwood *Cornus rac.*
- Redtwig Dogwood *Cornus s.*
- Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster*
- Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*
- Juniper *Juniperis*
- Honeysuckle *Lonicera*
- Bayberry *Myrica pennsylv.*
- Nanking Cherry *Prunus tom.*
- Chokecherry *Prunus v.*
- Buckthorn *Rhamnus*
- Smooth Sumac *Rhus glabra*
- Staghorn Sumac *Rhus typhina*
- Elderberry *Sambucus*
- Nannyberry Viburnum *V. lentago*
- Arrowwood Viburnum *V. opulus*
- Cranberry Viburnum *V. trilobum*

Groundcovers & Vines

- Fiveleaf *Akebia*
- Bearberry *Arctostaphylos*
- Bittersweet *Celastrus*
- Honeysuckle *Lonicera*
- Boston Ivy *Parthenocissus tric.*
- Virginia Creeper *Parthenocissus quin.*
- Grapes *Vitis*
- Wintercreeper *Euonymus fortunei*

Annuals

- Ageratum
- Bachelor Buttons
- Calendula
- Cosmos
- Dianthus
- Love-in-a-Mist
- Marigold
- Moss Roses
- Poppies
- Sunflowers
- Zinnias



Perennials

- Aster *Aster*
- Columbine *Aquilegia*
- Garden Mums *Chrysanthemums*
- Threadleaf Coreopsis *Coreopsis v.*
- Delphiniums *Delphinium*
- Coneflower *Echinacea*
- Globe Thistle *Echinops*
- Per. Sunflower *Helianthus*
- Coral Bells *Heuchera*
- Statice *Limonium*
- Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia*
- Goldenrod *Solidago*
- Ornamental Grasses

Evergreens for Cover & Nesting

- Arborvitae *Thuja*
- All Firs *Abies*
- All Spruce *Picea*
- All Pines *Pinus*
- Canadian Hemlock *Tsuga*

Roses

- Cuthbert Grant
- Hansa
- Henry Hudson
- Jens Munk
- Meidiland Pink
- Morden Centennial
- Pierette Pavement
- All Rugosa varieties

Small Fruits

- Blueberries
- Raspberries
- Currants
- Gooseberry
- Strawberries

