

Gardening For The Birds



Enchanted Forest Nursery & Stone

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TREES

Remember that some birds eat the seeds and fruit of the trees listed below. Purchasing seedless cultivars will not provide direct food for the birds; however, the trees themselves will provide shelter, and host insects which other birds will eat.

Black Alder
Serviceberry
Sugar Maple
River Birch
American Hornbeam
Pagoda Dogwood
Cornelian Cherry
Hawthorn
White Ash
Green Ash
Red Cedar
Tulip Tree
Crabapple
Hop-hornbeam
White Spruce
Colorado Spruce
White Pine
White Oak
Pin Oak
Lilac
Arborvitae
Hemlock

VINES

Virginia Creeper

ATTRACTING BIRDS WITH WATER

Luring wildlife into the landscape is easily done by installing trees and shrubs which provide cover, nesting, and food. Increasing the presence of birds and wildlife can also be achieved by making water available. Birds appreciate shallow pools of water, or perches, such as rocks, which might sit in deeper water. Birdbaths should be placed in partial shade near a small tree or large shrub which can be used by the birds as a staging area. From the cover they can make sure the coast is clear of predators such as crows, cats and birds-of-prey, and quickly retreat if they are surprised during their morning drink. Planting cover near a pond offers birds the same kind of security. Quite often the sound of water attracts the birds more than the water itself, so a simple dripping from a bucket or installation of a fountain head in a pond will spike the interest of neighboring avian life. Remember that some birds prefer to bathe in dust rather than water, so an area free of grass can be maintained to allow these individuals to ruffle their feathers.

EATING HABITS OF BIRDS

Birds are important to plants; therefore, the plants have customized their fruits to the birds likings. Most plants that depend on birds for their seed dispersal have fruit no larger than $\frac{3}{5}$ of an inch in diameter- this happens to be the diameter of the

open mouth of a seed-eating bird. Many plants advertise their ripe fruit with a red color, while orange, yellow and green signify unripe fruit. Some plants have white or blue berries, while their stems may be red, or they may have red, orange, or yellow fall color which will attract birds as well. About 70% of plants which disperse their seed by birds ripen their fruit in fall, the time of greatest potential for distribution... migration. Spicebush, Flowering Dogwood, and Sassafras are examples of fall fruiting plants which produce fruits high in fats. These fruits have twice the energy value of sugary fruits, and will aid in storing energy for those long flights during migration. Viburnums and Hawthorns are examples of plants with low fat fruits which may not be consumed until winter or spring. Because of the seasonal availability of fruits from plants, it is important to plant a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers that will benefit birds throughout the year.

PLANTS THAT WILL **ATTRACT BIRDS**

Just about any plant will attract birds solely because it offers shelter and insects to eat. The plants listed provide not only cover, but also food. Birds are attracted to plant communities more so than individual plantings—the larger the planting...the more birds attracted. Increase the value of a habitat by encouraging neighbors to plant as well.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

Aster
Basket Flower
Bachelor's Button
Bellflower
Black-eyed Susan
Calendula
California Poppy
China Aster
Mums
Coreopsis
Cockscomb
Dusty Miller
Love-lies-bleeding
Phlox
Moss Rose
Sunflower
Verbena

SHRUBS

Red Chokeberry
Black Chokeberry
Summersweet
Redtwig Dogwood
Vernal Witch Hazel
St. John's Wort
Winterberry Holly
Northern Bayberry
Fragrant Sumac
Staghorn Sumac
Raspberry
Snowberry
Coralberry
Highbush Blueberry
Arrowwood
Viburnum



"Our Plants Are Just The Beginning"

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