

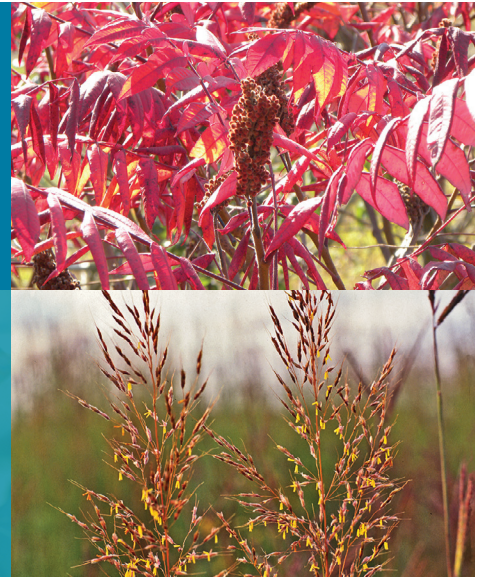


Landscaping with Native Plantings

Native plants, rather than non-native and/or invasive plants, are highly recommended for any landscaping project.

Provides: A variety of food, water, and shelter for a diversity of wildlife (see below for examples)

Supports: Nearly all wildlife will benefit from native plantings



Staghorn sumac and indiangrass

A few reasons to use native plantings include:

- 1) the native wildlife you aspire to provide habitat for have co-evolved with the native plant species in your area;
- 2) native plants have adapted to the climate, soil, and growing conditions of your area and survive and grow better than non-native plants; and
- 3) planting native species over non-native ones will help slow the spread of invasive species.

For these and so many other reasons, plant native and protect your local ecosystem.

Sources: blog.nwf.org/2012/05/why-are-native-plants-so-important • ncsu.edu/goingnative/whygo/benefits.html



Grey-headed coneflower

Conifers

PROVIDES: Shelter (all year), food

Conifers are plants we commonly know as “evergreens” or pine trees. Most conifers retain their needles year-round, even through the winter, making them valuable providers of shelter from the elements and predators. Pinecones also provide food for many species of wildlife.

EXAMPLES: Pine trees, spruce trees, hemlock trees

Source: www.marcellusfieldguide.org/index.php/guide/restoring_for_wildlife/conifers_for_wildlife



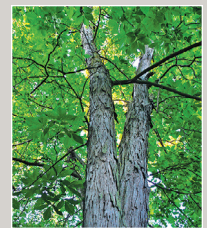
White pine

Nut- or Acorn-Bearing Plants

PROVIDES: Shelter (fall/winter), food

These plants are typically deciduous trees, meaning they lose their leaves each fall. The production of “hard mast” (nuts and acorns) in the fall provides a high caloric food source for many types of wildlife. Deciduous trees can also provide shelter, especially when leaves are present.

EXAMPLES: Oak (produce acorns), walnut, hickory, hazelnut, beech



Shagbark hickory

Grasses and Legumes

PROVIDES: Shelter, food

Because warm-season grasses (grasses that grow and thrive in the warmer seasons) often grow in bunches, they provide shelter for ground-nesting birds while also providing cover as smaller animals travel across the land. The large seed heads on native grasses provide food for birds and small mammals. Stems can remain upright well into winter, providing valuable cover during these stressful conditions.

Some plants, like legumes, are known for their ability to “fix” nitrogen – to convert the atmospheric nitrogen into a form plants can utilize. Often, legumes are planted with grasses so that natural nitrogen fixation will reduce the amount of nitrogen fertilizer that humans would otherwise apply.

EXAMPLES: Grasses – Big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass. Legumes – Indian breadroot, white prairie clover, silverleaf, scurfpea

Sources: www.bugwood.org/productivity/pdfs/NRCS-GA-645-NWSG9-07.pdf

extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/wildlife/landscaping-for-wildlife/warm-season-grasses-and-wildlife



Switch grass

Summer-Fruiting Plants

PROVIDES: Food

Plants that fruit in the summer provide great supplements to other naturally occurring food options.

EXAMPLES: Serviceberry, mulberry, elderberry, raspberries, cherries, honeysuckle, blackberry, dogwoods

Source: www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12148-30777--,00.html



Raspberry

Fall and Winter-Fruiting Plants

PROVIDES: Food

Plants that fruit in the fall can provide migratory birds with the food required to build up energy stores for the long flight south. Non-migrant bird species will also utilize fall fruits to help prepare for the oncoming winter. Some plants that fruit in the fall may continue to do so well into winter (sometimes even into early spring), providing a source of food when naturally available food is scarce. You may also consider including winter-fruiting plants in your landscaping to provide food when animals need the most help.

EXAMPLES: Thornapples, crabapples, firethorn, mountain ash, American high-bush cranberry, nannyberry, arrowwood, staghorn sumac, hackberry, bittersweet, hawthorn

Sources: www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12148-30777--,00.html

extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/wildlife/landscaping-for-wildlife/pa-wildlife-7

(table of trees and small trees and their fruiting schedule)



Bittersweet

Nectar-Producing Plants

PROVIDES: Food (nectar and insects)

Flowering plants that produce nectar are attractive food resources for many insects and some nectivorous birds. Pollinators like bees and butterflies drink nectar and in the process help the flowers pass on their genes through pollination.

EXAMPLES: Any flowering plant, though some may be more “nectar-rich” than others

Source: www.gardenersworld.com/plants/features/wildlife/wildlife-friendly-plants/1127.html



Purple prairie clover

Native Planting Implementation Steps:

- 1 Consider what habitat features are currently lacking on your property and how native plants could fill in the gaps –**
Remember to think about wildlife and their habitat needs throughout the year, not just in one single season.
- 2 Design your native yard or garden –**
If you need inspiration or help, try searching for a nursery that specializes in native plants for assistance in planning your native garden. Pick plants that will provide the best, most complete habitat for your local wildlife while also meeting your own needs as a homeowner. If starting plants from seed, it is recommended to collect or purchase seeds from within a 100 mile radius of the planting site as these seeds are adapted for the climate and growing conditions.
- 3 Plant and maintain your garden! –**
For further elaboration on any of these steps, visit any of the websites listed below.

Other Resources:

- North Carolina State University “Going Native – Urban Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants”
ncsu.edu/goingnative/howto
- Step-by-step worksheet to start a native garden
ncsu.edu/goingnative/create
- National Wildlife Federation has information about native gardening, including examples of native plants by region
www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants.aspx
- The Wild Ones, a native plant organization, provide good information about landscaping with native plants
www.wildones.org/learn/native-plants-and-landscaping



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