

ATTRACTING WILDLIFE TO YOUR BACKYARD

Why landscape to attract wildlife?

It's a very delightful and rewarding hobby with many benefits, such as energy conservation, recreation, food production, nature study, natural insect control, and at the same time increasing your property's value.

Things to consider before getting started:

1. Provide wildlife's four basic needs: food - water - shelter - space.
2. Make things functional, not just good looking or convenient.
3. Provide diversity in species and arrangement.
4. Provide food and cover for all seasons.
5. Arrange food, water, and cover as close as possible. Consider prevailing wind, the sun, and don't always plant straight rows.
6. Plant native species when possible from local sources.
7. Consider your soil and topography, test for deficiencies, pH, and soil type. Consider poorly drained areas, south slope, north slope, etc.

Planning

1. Set objectives.
2. Draw a map, include shady and sunny areas, also wet and dry soil types.
3. Include as much diversity as possible.
4. Check with local resource people: wildlife, soil, forestry, horticulture.
5. Check references: Landscaping for Wildlife, MN DNR; Attracting Birds, Ortho Books; National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.
6. Make a planting plan, do as much as you can afford and have time for each year. Consider a 5 year plan.
7. Implement plan and enjoy!

