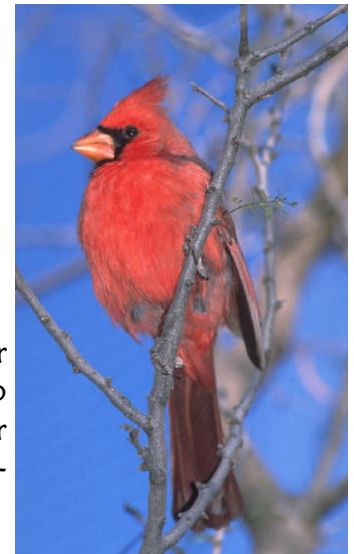


Landscaping to Attract Birds



Those of you who love to hear the birds sing throughout the year know that you can attract those beautiful birds and their songs to your garden by applying some bird-attracting strategy to your home landscaping. Whether you're a bird watching pro or a bird-loving beginner, here is some info that will be interesting to all.

First, an overview:

You want to create a garden or landscape that will attract birds and make them feel at home. This includes providing a varied, long-term food supply with plants that offer fruits, nuts and seeds. Birds that overwinter in your garden need food every day of the year! Small birds will eat almost constantly during the daylight hours in the winter, whereas migratory songbirds need large amounts of food for varying amounts of time, often just a day or two. In either case, there are three basic requirements that birds need for survival:

- food
- cover
- water

It's really quite a simple task to create a welcoming garden for birds!

Bird Food in the Landscape:



Viburnum dentatum

As mentioned above, you should plant an assortment of plant species that provides seeds, berries, nuts, or other food for a year-round food supply for your feathered friends. Planting a diverse selection will ensure a variety of food sources are available.

Deciduous plants generally bear the most fruit, nuts, and seeds for wildlife. They also offer shady, leafy nesting sites in spring and summer. Evergreens offer a good source of berries and cones filled with seed. They also provide year-round shelter, protection, and breeding sites.

Most of us already have numerous trees, shrubs and flowers in our garden, but supplementing with native fruiting trees, shrubs and vines will make it that much more attractive to birds! Another way to entice birds is reducing

your lawn size. I know there are some of you who love lots of green lush grass, but others may not, so how far you want to go to bring birds into your garden is completely up to you! Large expanses of grass attract less desirable birds like starlings, cowbirds, and grackles. All of which compete with our native songbirds for food and nesting areas.



Before adding to your garden, make note of your existing plants and keep separate lists of which ones supply food in spring, summer, fall and winter. This will help you determine which season needs some more food-bearing plants.



Remember that gardening and bird watching should be enjoyable and relaxing, so don't stress yourself out by trying to re-create your garden overnight. Plan on gradual changes over the course of several planting seasons. Add plants gradually as your budget and time allows. Be sure to prep the soil before planting if needed, mulch the area to reduce weeds and help retain moisture, and always make sure your new plants are watered throughout the first year until they are established. This will ensure planting success for your new bird-attracting garden!

- Heather Neuin
Pennsylvania Pride Grow Team

Bird-Attracting Plants:

Flowering Trees:

Serviceberry
Flowering Dogwoods
Winter King Hawthorn
Flowering Crabapples

Shade Trees:

Heritage River Birch
Royal Frost Birch
Weeping Birch
Whitespire Birch
Sourwood

Specialty Trees:

White Fringetree

Vines:

Virginia Creeper



Flowering Deciduous Shrubs:

Regent Serviceberry
Brilliant Chokecherry
Red Stem Dogwood
Cranberry Cotoneaster
Sparkleberry Holly
Arrowwood Viburnum
Winterthur Viburnum
Blackhaw Viburnum

Leafed Evergreen Shrubs:

Bearberry
Wintergreen
Blue Princess Holly
China Girl Holly



Fruit:

*Strawberries
*Raspberries
*Blueberries

**You may want to protect these plants from Birds if you are planning to eat them yourself!*