

Plants that Attract Birds

Attracting birds to your yard is about more than just their beauty and their songs. Birds devour bugs and play an important role in the pollination of some flowers. By selecting the right plants, you can easily attract birds into your yard at all points of the year. To do so, pay attention to when birds feed on certain plants, and use plants that will provide food and shelter during different seasons. This list shows some of the favorite foods and cover plants of birds in our region, as well as when they feed on the plant.

Trees:

- Apple (S, F)
- Cherry (S,F)
- Crabapple (S, F, W – Some Varieties Have Persistent Fruit)
- Hackberry (W)
- Hawthorn (F, W)
- Mountain Ash (F, W)
- Oak (F, W)
- Plum (S, F)
- Redbud (Sp)
- Serviceberry (S)

Evergreens:

- Arborvitae (Food Source, W)
- Balsam Fir (Cover)
- Hemlock (Food Source, W)
- Juniper (Food Source, F, W)
- Pine (All Varieties, Cover)
- Spruce (All Varieties, Cover)

Shrubs, Small Fruits, and Vines:

- Barberry (W)
- Bittersweet (W)
- Blueberry (S)
- Boxwood (Cover)
- Buttonbush (S)
- Chokeberry (W)
- Cotoneaster (F, W)
- Currant (S)
- Dogwood (F)
- Gooseberry (S)
- Raspberry (S)
- Rose (S, F)
- Serviceberry (S)
- Snowberry (W)
- Sumac (W)
- Viburnum (F, W)
- Winterberry (W)

Perennials and Ground Covers:

- Baptisia (False Indigo, Sp)
- Bee Balm (S)
- Black Eyed Susan (S)
- Coreopsis (S)
- Joe Pye Weed (S, F)
- Liatris (S)
- Coneflower (S, F, W)
- Sedum (F, W)
- Strawberries (S)
- Yarrow (S)

Ornamental Grasses:

- Big Bluestem (F, W)
- Blue Fescue (F, W)
- Indian Grass (F, W)
- Little Bluestem (F, W)
- Northern Sea Oats (F, W)
- Prairie Dropseed Grass (F, W)
- Switchgrass (Many Cultivars, F, W)
- Tuft Hair Grass (F, W)

Key:

(Sp) = Feeds Birds in the Spring
(S) = Feeds Birds in the Summer
(F) = Feeds Birds in the Fall
(W) = Feeds Birds in the Winter