



Purple coneflower



Thickspike gayfeather



Butterfly milkweed



Columbine



Black-eyed Susan



New England Aster



Little bluestem



Stiff goldenrod



Showy milkweed



Purple prairie clover

About Audubon

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon's state programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners have an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. Since 1905, Audubon's vision has been a world in which people and wildlife thrive.

Visit Audubon online for more information and tips.

www.audubon.org



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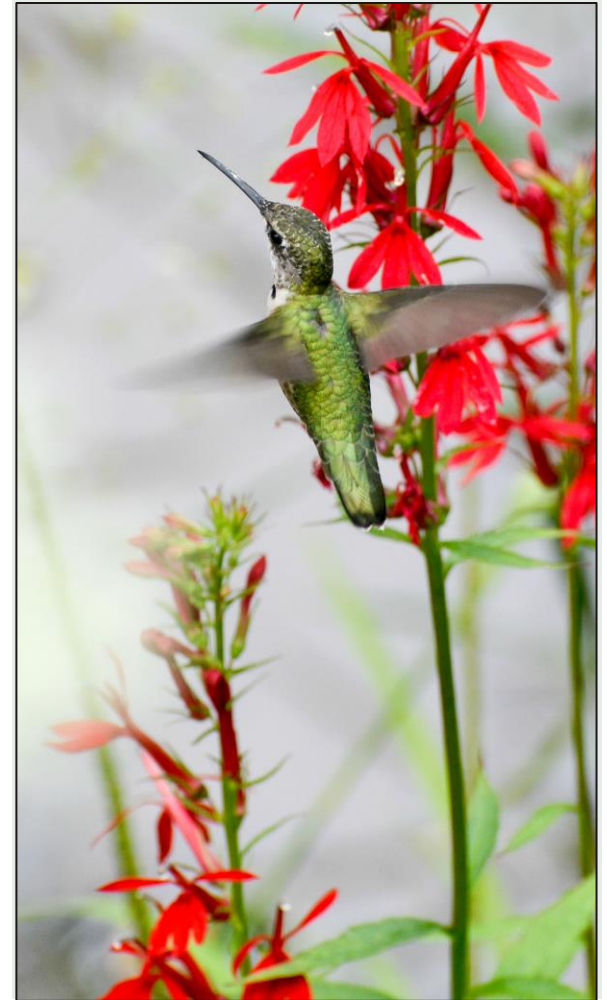


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Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden

Why Native Plants Matter



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Overview

Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Native plants, or those that are uniquely adapted to your local environment, can provide many benefits for birds year-round such as shelter, places to nest, and food resources such as insects, seeds, berries, and nectar.

Getting Started

MATERIALS

- Garden space in your yard, raised bed, or container
- Trowel or shovel
- Selection of native plants that produce seeds, berries, and flowers. Be sure to choose some "host plants" that support insects.
- Mulch or other organic groundcover

TIME AND PLACE

Depending on your project, you may need multiple hours to plan and install your garden, and multiple weeks for the plants to grow big enough to attract birds and butterflies. Consider installing plants from May-September. Install plants in 1x1 foot plots so they have room to spread and grow. Each plant has different soil, sunlight and water requirements- be sure to install plants where they will be "happiest" on your landscape.



Native plant landscaping in Kearney, Nebraska

Maintaining Your Garden



Remember, your garden was planted for hungry guests, so some leaf damage is OK! Water according to the needs of each plant. Always avoid using pesticides/insecticides and herbicides on or near your plants. This will harm wildlife and your plants. To keep weeds in check, maintain a layer of mulch and pull weeds regularly.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

You might also consider providing a water source, such as a hollowed boulder that catches rainwater or a bird bath for birds to drink and bathe in.

Planting in groups of three is very pleasing to the eye and will help wildlife passing by to locate plants they favor.

Selecting Plants

NATIVE PLANTS ARE BEST

Select plants that grow well in your area- a.k.a. native plants! Native plants will attract and support your local birds and insects much better than non-native plants. This is because native plants host far more caterpillars and insects than plants that are not from your local environment.

Try to choose a variety of both perennial and annual plants that will bloom throughout the growing season. This will help to attract birds and butterflies to your garden for longer periods. Shrubs and trees also attract wildlife because they provide resources like nuts and nest cavities.

To find the right plants for your native garden, ask your local greenhouse about their native plant supply.

There are several native plant greenhouses in Nebraska:

Midwest Natives Nursery

<https://midwestnativesnursery.square.site/#>

Prairie Legacy Inc.

<https://prairielegacyinc.com/?v=36b03dc28b10>

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

<https://plantnebraska.org/>

You can also check out lists of recommended native plants that are attractive to pollinators on the Xerces Society website:

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists>

MORE INFORMATION

Plants for Birds website:

<https://www.audubon.org/PLANTSFORBIRDS>

Native plant database:

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>