

Planting your Bird Garden



Birds of all kinds love Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia spp.), Delphinium, Honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.) and Zinnia. Select plants below to attract either hummingbirds or other wild bird species:

Plants for Hummingbirds

Common Name	Botanical Name
Annuals	
Cleome	<i>Cleome spp.</i>
Coleus	<i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i>
Floss Flower	<i>Ageratum spp.</i>
New Guinea Impatiens	<i>Impatiens hawkeri, others</i>
Purple Tansy	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>
Perennials	
Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache spp.</i>
Beard Tongue/Penstemon	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda spp.</i>
California Fuchsia	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>
Coral Bells	<i>Heuchera Sanguinea</i>
Crocasmia	<i>Crocasmia spp.</i>
Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana spp.</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis spp.</i>
Germander	<i>Teuchrium spp.</i>
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea spp.</i>
Kangaroo Paw	<i>Anigozanthos</i>
Mexican Bird of Paradise	<i>Caesalpinia spp.</i>
Peruvian Lisy	<i>Alstroemeria spp.</i>
Red Yucca	<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>
Salvia/Sage	<i>Salvia spp.</i>
Scented Geranium	<i>Pelargonium graveolens</i>
Speedwell	<i>Veronica spp.</i>
Star Flower	<i>Pentas spp.</i>
Torch Lily	<i>Kniphofia spp.</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea spp.</i>
Shrubs	
Australian Fuchsia	<i>Correa spp.</i>
Bottlebrush	<i>Callistimon spp.</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja spp.</i>
California Wild Lilac	<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>
Fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia spp.</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana spp.</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavandula spp.</i>

Plants for Birds

Common Name	Botanical Name
Annuals	
Bachelor Buttons	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>
Marigold	<i>Tagetes spp.</i>
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>
Perennials	
Aster	<i>Aster spp.</i>
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia spp.</i>
Coneflower	<i>Echinacea spp.</i>
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos spp.</i>
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops spp.</i>
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>
Mexican Sunflower	<i>Tithonia spp.</i>
Oriental Poppy	<i>Papaver orientale</i>
Shrubs	
Bird of Paradise	<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>
California Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>
Currant	<i>Ribes spp.</i>
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum</i>
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum spp.</i>



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Build your own *Bird Garden*

Bringing birds to your garden adds vitality and entertainment to your landscape. Birds' requirements are few: sources of food and shelter in the form of beautiful plants and a source of fresh water.

Important to Note:



- Nectar drinking birds like trumpet shaped flowers.
- Seed eating birds benefit from flowers left to seed over winter
- Fruit eating birds feast on many fruits inedible to humans.



Food & Water—Adult birds and their chicks need it!

- Birds eat fruits and seeds. Some drink nectar; others also eat insects, rodents and other small birds and animals. Plantings provide food (or habitat for critters) that birds eat. Refer to the list on the back of this sheet to create your bird garden.
- Feeders provide supplemental food, whether seed or nectar.
- Birds need fresh water for hydration and bathing; bird baths need water replaced regularly.

Shelter

Birds find shelters in trees, shrubs, crevices and the hollows of decaying logs. Or personalize your bird garden with a house: from a simple utilitarian box with an entrance opening to a wide assortment of charming architectural wonders. Be sure to hang it in a place that is difficult for predators to access.

Bird-Friendly Plant Maintenance

Every spring and summer, gardeners prune and clear trees and shrubs of brush accumulated over the year; sadly, this occurs when many birds nest, destroying nests, killing birds and reducing nesting sites.

To encourage nesting:

- **Prune trees and shrubs from September to February** during plant dormancy, minimizing disturbance to nesting birds and lessening stress on your plants.
- **Leave nests (even empty nests) undisturbed to accommodate future new eggs and chicks;** many birds reuse nests and nest outside of the spring and summer time frame.
- **Avoid moving or touching nests, eggs or young birds you may find;** birds are susceptible to diseases. Parents can abandon disturbed nests, leaving babies to die. Stop work in proximate areas until young have fledged, usually taking just four weeks.



Safer practices—birds want to live!

- Birds poisoned from pesticides, fungicides and rodenticides don't die right away; they bring back the poisoned food to their nesting young.
- Hatchlings eat the poisoned food, killing them as well, causing devastation to the entire population.

Even safer products are not completely safe for birds. *Follow the guidelines below to help minimize impact to birds and other wildlife.*

- **Do not spray on windy days;** protect birds, bees, butterflies, other beneficial insects and wildlife.
- **Never spray open flowers or seedheads.** Spray just before bud break. Use Bt for bud worms, but never spray Bt products on Milkweed.
- **Spray at dawn, dusk, or at night.** Birds are less active during these times.
- **Systemic insecticides translocate to flowers and can harm birds,** even those applied to soil.
- **Use traps instead of poisoned bait for controlling rats, mice and other rodent pests.** Birds, pets and other wildlife that eat poisoned rodents die or become very ill. (Additionally, each year, over 12,000 children under age six are also inadvertently exposed to harmful rodent poison in the US.)

Awake to birdsong!

Providing necessities for bird survival gives you the added benefit of hearing the cheery voices of birds in your garden. Enjoy the show!