



The Conservation Seedling Nursery

Planting For Wildlife



The Importance Of Native Plants

Native plants are not just a beautiful addition to your landscape, they are essential for maintaining a healthy, balanced ecosystem. Unlike exotic or non-native plants, which are introduced from other regions, native plants have evolved over centuries, making them uniquely adapted to the local climate and wildlife species that rely on them.

Native plants play a vital role in promoting biodiversity and providing habitat for wildlife. A variety of native plants are a host for food and shelter for a range of wildlife species. This also creates a strong habitat that is less vulnerable to pests and disease.

Moreover, native plants offer low-maintenance landscapes that require minimal upkeep and are naturally drought-tolerant with deep root systems that retain water, reduce run-off, and prevent soil erosion.

How to Plant for Wildlife

When planting for wildlife a diverse landscape with many different plant species will help attract them to your property and allow them to thrive. A diverse plant population provides food throughout the year, shelter at different vertical layers, and connectivity between habitats

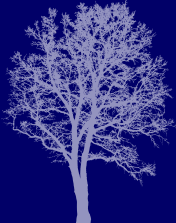
Different plant species provide food at different times of the year. For example, aspen leaves and buds provide food in the later winter/early spring, chokecherry provides fruit in the summer, crabapple provides fruit in the fall. Grass provides food year round. A mix of species at different heights will provide food for a variety of wildlife.

To help wildlife move throughout your property, plant a variety of native plants close together. This way wildlife can be protected as they move through different habitats.

3 Essentials for Wildlife Plantings



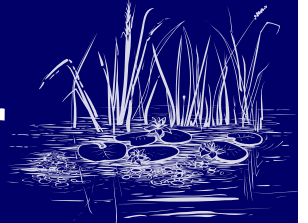
Food



Shelter



Water



Native Plants for Wildlife

Flowers

Annual Sunflower
Balsam root
Beargrass
Blanketflower
Canada Goldenrod
Cutleaf Daisy
Fireweed
Hairy Golden Aster
Heartleaf Arnica
Oregon Sunshine
Prairie Smoke
Showy Fleabane
Showy Milkweed
Silvery or Silky Lupine
Spreading Dogbane
Sticky Geranium
Western Yarrow

Shrubs

Buffaloberry
Douglas Spirea
Elderberry
Golden Currant
Mock Orange
Ninebark
Raspberry
Red-Osier Dogwood
Skunkbush Sumac
Thimbleberry
Thinleaf Alder
Water Birch
Wood's Rose

Grasses

Basin Wildrye
Bluebunch Wheatgrass
Candad Wildrye
Columbia Needlegrass
Greenleaf Needlegrass
Idaho Fescue
Mountain Brome
Needle and Thread
Northern Reedgrass
Prairie Junegrass
Richardson's Needlegrass
Rough Fescue
Sand Dropseed
Sixweeks Fescue
Sandberg Bluegrass
Western Wheatgrass

Trees

American Plum
Bebb's Willow
Black Cottonwood
Booth's Willow
Burr Oak
Chokecherry
Douglas-fir
Engelmann Spruce
Limber Pine
Lodgepole Pine
Ponderosa Pine
Quaking Aspen
Rocky Mountain Juniper
Rocky Mountain Maple
Sandbar Willow
Serviceberry
Western Larch
Western Red Cedar
Western White Pine

The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery produces native species from wild collected and source identified seed so you can genetically match the best seedlings for your wildlife planting.



Visit: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/nursery>