

How to Plant a Backyard Wildlife Oasis Today!

Below are ideas of what to plant for your Earth-friendly garden. You can grow flowers and crops to use for yourself while attracting beautiful wildlife that provide many benefits for your community. Share your freshly grown food, nectar, and pollen with many animals and other critters!*

Mammals



Squirrels bury many type of acorns, seeds, and nuts, but don't always remember where they were stored. These forgotten caches lead to the growth of more trees and plants.

Fruits: Pears, apples, melons, berries; Vegetables: Tomatoes, cucumbers, and peas.

Birds



Birds are great helpers in seed dispersal: the seeds that pass through their systems are often far removed from parent plants, helping ensure the plant's survival. Seed-eating birds: Daisy-like flowers: Sunflowers, asters, black-eyed Susans, zinnias; All birds: Fruit bushes and trees.

Insects



Lady Bugs eat several types of garden pests that damage plants. A single lady bug can eat up to 5,000 aphids in its lifetime.

Herbs: chives, dill, fennel; Flowers: marigold, cosmos.

Opossums often get a bad rap in yards full of much cuter mammals. They can, however, be helpful to gardeners, by eating pests such as slugs, grubs, and even small rodents. Almost any fruits and vegetables that are at ground level.



Hummingbirds are amazing pollinators, visiting hundreds of flowers daily because of their high metabolisms.

Flowers: Bee balm, geraniums, sage, day lilies, hollyhocks, impatiens, petunias.

Bees produce honey from the nectar they collect from flowers, and are responsible for pollinating approximately 1/3 of the crops in the United States!

Flowers: Bee balm, black-eyed Susan, lavender, sunflowers, roses.



Rabbits, besides being totally precious, have manure that is very rich in the minerals and nutrients needed to help soil structure. Green and leafy veggies: asparagus, clover, squashes, and lettuce, EXCEPT iceberg lettuce. "Greens" from beets, radishes, carrots, and dandelions.



Fun Fact!

Hummingbirds are attracted to flowers because of colors, while insects are generally attracted by scent. At least 150 North American flowers are specialized for hummingbirds! These flowers are generally bright-colored and tubular, but rarely very odorous.

Butterflies are sensitive to weather changes and pesticides. Their presence indicates that your garden is Earth-friendly and healthy! Butterflies also help with flower pollination.

Herbs: Oregano, sage; Flowers: Marigold, liatris, zinnia, milkweed (loved especially by Monarchs!)



Bats act as pollinators for flowers that bloom at night, and can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes an hour!

Night-blooming flowers: Moonflower, four-o'clocks and yucca.




Kimberly
WYMAN

Nurturing Global Givers, Growers, and Giggles.

www.kimberlywyman.com

*As Earth-responsible gardeners, we never use pesticides or insecticides! Check out the link below for some good tips and how to get started in becoming a truly "green" gardener. <http://www.scgh.com/go-green/landscaping-and-outdoors/safe-pesticides/>