

OTHER RESOURCES

Mariette Nowak
Birdscaping in the Midwest

Doug Tallamy
*Bringing Nature Home:
How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants*

Charlotte Adelman & Bernard L. Schwartz
*The Midwestern Native Garden:
Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants*

Keith Nowakowski
Native Plants in the Home Landscape



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Transform
your Evanston garden
into a habitat for
birds, bees
and butterflies!



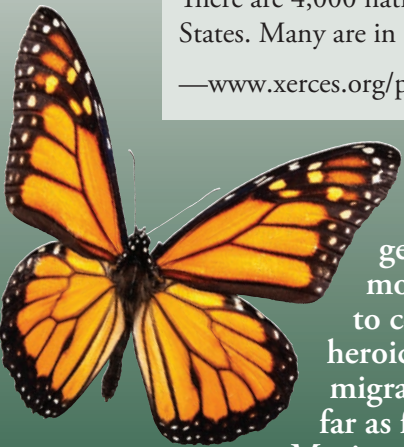
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WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help Natural Habitat Evanston create improved habitat for birds and pollinators throughout Evanston. Working closely with the City of Evanston, Evanston TreeKeepers, Citizens' Greener Evanston and other partners, Natural Habitat Evanston helps create, restore and conserve habitat in parks, backyards, and schoolyards, at places of worship and in other green spaces. Natural Habitat Evanston is working to certify all of Evanston as a National Wildlife Federation community habitat as well as to update ordinances, reduce pesticides, and create habitat corridors along the lakefront, North Shore Channel and other green pathways.

This is important for birds and pollinators because pesticides, urbanization, and habitat loss are reducing their populations. Outdoor cats, and collisions with highly reflective glass windows also take a toll on birds.

Please consider using native plants like these in your home landscapes to help birds and pollinators and to add ornamental value. More sources for ideas are listed on the back of this brochure.



There are 4,000 native bees in the United States. Many are in serious trouble.
—www.xerces.org/pollinator-redlist

It takes 3–4 generations of monarch butterflies to complete their heroic annual migration, traveling as far as from Canada to Mexico. Their populations have plummeted more than 90% since the 1990s.
—www.nwf.org

WHY NATIVES?

Planting natives in your yard helps to restore balance to our natural ecosystem and cultivates a diverse and healthier environment for wildlife and for our own children.

Native plants provide food for birds and pollinators across seasons. Many species evolved with specific plants and must have those plants for food, shelter and to raise their young. Some even use native plants to self-medicate. For example, the monarch butterfly feeds on milkweed toxins to suppress parasites.

Native plants tend to thrive in the environments in which they evolved. If you site them properly, that means you may be able to eliminate pesticides and cut down on watering. Replacing turf grass with native plants also saves on mowing while attracting more pollinators.

In cultivating backyard diversity, look for varied colors, textures, seasonal blooms, and fruit, and aim for a layered structure with plants of different sizes. They all enhance the diversity of your yard and the likelihood that together we can serve the needs of a wider variety of species.



Rusty Patch Bumblebee has declined from 87% of its range.



About a quarter of migratory birds are in trouble, many of which use our backyards. 78 bird species are listed as endangered, 14 species are listed as threatened, and an additional 144 species are listed as of concern in the United States.
—www.fws.gov

NATIVE PLANTS FOR
FULL OR PART SUN

Milkweeds

Milkweeds are critical for butterflies and bees. They are host plants for monarch larvae

1 Butterfly Milkweed

[Asclepias tuberosa]
2'. Orange blooms in June–August.

2 Rose Milkweed

[Asclepias incarnata]
4'. Red blooms in June–August.

3 Anise Hyssop

[Agastache foeniculum]
Attracts butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. Used as licorice herb or tea.
2–4'. Purple blooms in June–September.

4 Button Blazing Star

[Liatris aspera]
Many pollinators visit: honeybees, bumblebees, little carpenter bees, miner bees, leaf-cutting bees, monarchs, painted ladies, black swallowtails, sulfurs, and more.
3'. Purple blooms in July–October.

5 Pale Purple Coneflower

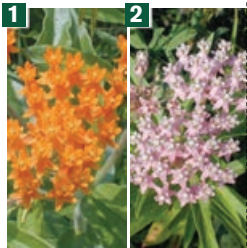
[Echinacea pallida]
Blooms in early summer, when only a few of the sun-loving plants are in bloom, and provides nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies. The leaves provide food for the Ottoo-skipper larva.
3'. Pink blooms June–July.

6 Purple Prairie Clover

[Dalea purpurea]
A host plant for dogface butterfly larvae. Provides nectar to many species of butterflies, bees, and other pollinating insects.
2'. Purple blooms July–September.

7 Sky Blue Aster

[Aster oolentangiensis]
Asters and goldenrod provide critical late-season nectar, and pollen when little else does.
1–2'. Blue blooms August–October.



NATIVE PLANTS FOR
FULL OR PART SHADE

Asters

Asters are important for birds and pollinators to find late season forage. Two to try:

1 Big-leaved Aster

[Aster macrophyllus]
1–2'. Light blue blooms in August–October.

2 Short's Aster

[Aster shortii]
3' Purple blooms in August–October.

Goldenrod

It is hard to overstress how important goldenrods are in the landscape. Including them provides ecosystem services well into the fall when most other plant life is shutting down. They have been miscredited, and are not hyperallergenic.

3 Blue stemmed Goldenrod

[Solidago caesia]
3'. Yellow blooms in August–October.

4 Zigzag Goldenrod

[Solidago flexicaulis]
3'. Yellow blooms in August–October.

5 Columbine

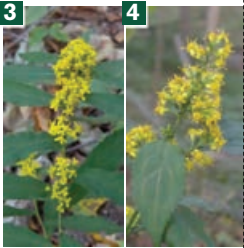
[Aquilegia canadensis]
One of the first plants to provide nectar in the spring for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Host for Duskywing butterflies. Besides being an early bloomer, Columbine will tolerate a large range of soil and sun types, and can grow in pine tree areas.
2'. Red and yellow blooms in April–June.

6 Poke Milkweed

[Asclepias exaltata]
Important host plant for butterflies!
5'. White blooms in June–July.

7 Wild Blue Phlox

[Phlox divaricata]
Bright blue-pink flowers attractive to hummingbirds arriving for a springtime drink of nectar. It is widely adaptable and mixes well with ferns and other spring flowers, spreading slowly but steadily. Rabbits may like it.
1'. Blue-pink blooms in April–June.



NATIVE SHRUBS AND
SMALL TREES

1 American Hazelnut

[Corylus americana]
Hazelnuts are sweet, in a papery husk, and eaten by birds and mammals. Many beneficial insects feed on the American Hazelnut, including skipper caterpillars.
Avg. height 6–12', Part to full shade. Bright yellow to deep wine red fall color.

2 Black Chokeberry

[Aronia melanocarpa]
Excellent choice for tough, low-lying wet areas, and can acclimate itself to dry, sandy locations as well. Important for songbirds. Avg. height 6–12', purple-black berries. Full sun to full shade. White blooms in May, fall color.

3 Blackhaw Viburnum

[Viburnum prunifolium]
Its fruit is eaten by songbirds and can be made into preserves. Native bees rely on its nectar. The astringent bark was formerly used medicinally. The Latin species name refers to the resemblance of its leaves to plum leaves.
Avg. height 12–15' [up to 30'], blue-black berries. Part shade. White blooms in April–May, fall color.

4 Northern Spicebush

[Lindera benzoin]
Attracts birds and pollinators. Larval host to eastern tiger swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail, and promethea silkmoth. It blooms early for pollinators, and offers fatty fruit for birds in migratory season. Avg. height 6–12', red berries. Full sun to full shade. White-yellow blooms in April, gold leaves in fall.

5 Serviceberry, Shadblow

[Amelanchier laevis and other native varieties]
Nectar is collected by pollinators, and juicy fruit by birds. Native people dried the fruit, mashed them into cakes, or mixed them with meat and fat to form pemmican, a lightweight, high-energy food. The names Shadbush and Shadblow allude to the showy flowers that tend to coincide with the spring shad spawning. Avg. height 12–36'. Red-purple berries. Full sun to full shade. White blooms in April–May.



NATIVE
FULL-SIZE TREES

Oaks [Quercus species]

Oaks are wildlife heroes. Acorns are eaten by many mammals and birds, including flicker, nuthatch, titmouse, woodpecker, and blue jay. Blue jays and rodents disperse acorns by hiding them for later use. Red-tailed hawks, screech owls, fox squirrels, and flying squirrels nest in oaks. The caterpillars of butterflies and several hundred species of moths eat its leaves. Consider:

1 Bur Oak [Quercus macrocarpa]

A long-lived tree that may reach 400 or more years with the largest of all oak acorns. Avg. height 80–120'. Full or part sun.

2 American Hornbeam

[Carpinus caroliniana]
Seeds and buds are eaten by songbirds, and leaves and twigs by rabbits, and other wildlife. Larval host for tiger swallowtail, Striped hairstreak, Red-spotted Purple, Tiger swallowtail. Avg. height 12–36', Full or part shade.

3 Hop Hornbeam [Ostrya virginiana]

The hop-like papery fruit sack encases a nutlet that is winter food for the purple finch, rose-breasted grosbeak, downy woodpecker, and other songbirds. Avg. height 20–50'. Full or part sun.

4 American Crabapple [Malus coronaria]

Pollinated by honeybees, bumblebees, and long-horned and long-tongued bees. Its fruit feeds songbirds, and its spring blossoms provide nectar for warblers and other migrants. Because it is densely branched and thorny, it provides nesting habitat and cover for birds. Avg. height 35'. Full sun. Fragrant white-pink blossoms in May, fall color.

5 Cockspur Hawthorn

[Crataegus crus-galli]
While it has thorns, this small tree has big wildlife benefit. It is larval host to five species of hairstreak butterfly. It provides fruit, nectar, cover, and nesting material to birds and pollinators. Pink-white blooms in May are of special value to native bees and migrating birds. Avg. height 12–36'. Full sun to full shade. Fall color.

