

Top 10 Trees for Your Wildlife Garden



1 Oak · *Quercus* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: Host plant for 532 species of caterpillars (Lepidoptera); acorns are a resource for many animals including jays, woodpeckers, and warblers.
Native examples: white, black, willow, swamp white, pin, red, scarlet



2 Cherry · *Prunus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Host plant for 456 Lepidopterans; cherries are favorite food source for 41 bird species including orioles, cedar waxwings, woodpeckers, thrushes.
Native examples: black, pin, chokecherry, also peach, plum, almond



3 Birch · *Betula* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: Seeds and buds highly prized by birds like American goldfinches, nuthatches, and orioles; hosts 411 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.
Native examples: gray, river, yellow, sweet, paper



4 Willow · *Salix* · 🦋

Why: These lovely, water-loving trees support 455 species of Lepidoptera including mourning cloak, red-spotted purple, and viceroy caterpillars.
Native examples: white, black



5 Aspen · *Populus* · 🦋

Why: Eastern tiger swallowtails, twinstot sphinx moths, and 365 other Lepidopterans use this tree with fluttering gold leaves in fall (*P. tremuloides*).
Native examples: quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, eastern cottonwood



6 Apple · *Malus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Hosts 308 Lepidopterans; fruits and other plant parts are eaten by 28 bird species including hummingbirds, orioles, and woodpeckers.
Native examples: sweet (American), Southern (coastal plain)



7 Maple · *Acer* · 🦋🌳

Why: Plant host for 297 Lepidopteran species including Io and Luna moths; seeds are eaten by cardinals, evening grosbeaks; goldfinches use for nesting.
Native examples: red, sugar, silver



8 Elm · *Ulmus* · 🦋🌳

Why: Supports 215 Lepidopteran species; seeds, buds, and flowers are eaten by birds and mammals; sought out by cavity nesters such as woodpeckers.
Native examples: American *ask for cultivar resistant to Dutch Elm Disease



9 Pine · *Pinus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Winter cover, nesting sites, and food for 43 bird species including nuthatches, warblers, towhees, juncos, and woodpeckers; 201 Lep. species.
Native examples: Eastern white, pitch, red



10 Holly · *Ilex* · 🐦

Why: Provides food and cover in winter for 36 bird species including thrushes, brown thrasher, white-eyed vireo, and woodpeckers.
Native examples: American, winterberry, inkberry



best bet for bugs



best bet for birds



Baltimore City-approved street tree

Top 10 Shrubs for Your Wildlife Garden



1 Blueberry, cranberry · *Vaccinium* · 🦋🐦

Why: Host plant for 294 species of caterpillars (Lepidoptera) including Spring Azure and Striped Hairstreak; relished by songbirds; fall color.
Native examples: highbush blueberry, lowbush blueberry, cranberry



2 Serviceberry · *Amelanchier* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: High bird value in the fruit as well as host for 124 Leps; feeds 36 bird species including Swainson's thrush, brown thrasher and Northern flicker.
Native examples: shadbush (juneberry), smooth, downy



3 Dogwood · *Cornus* · 🦋🐦🌳

Why: Flowering tree and multi-stemmed shrubs provide cover, food, and nesting sites for 36 bird species like purple finches and cedar waxwings.
Native examples: red-osier, alternate-leaved, gray, silky, flowering



4 Bayberry, myrtle · *Myrica* · 🦋🐦

Why: High fat content in berries provide energy for migrating birds when they need it the most; plant host for 108 species of moths and butterflies.
Native examples: wax myrtle, northern bayberry



5 Viburnum · *Viburnum* · 🦋🐦

Why: Fruit-bearing shrub; insect host plant; great cover plant; used by at least 24 bird species including cedar waxwings, thrushes, and flycatchers.
Native examples: mapleleaf, southern arrowwood, blackhaw



6 Sweet fern · *Comptonia* · 🦋

Why: This threatened shrub, not a fern, has a sweet odor that attracts 64 Lepidopteran species including Io moths; roots produce its own Nitrogen.
Native examples: sweet fern



7 Witchhazel · *Hamamelis* · 🦋

Why: Late-flowering shrub feeds 63 species of Lepidopterans; also consider its smaller relative, witchalder (*Fothergilla*) with gorgeous fall color.
Native examples: witchhazel, dwarf witchalder, mountain witchalder



8 Rhododendron · *Rhododendron* · 🦋

Why: Supports 51 Lepidopteran species; bird nesting sites; among our most beautiful native shrubs with orange, fuchsia, and white blooms in spring.
Native examples: smooth azalea, great laurel, early azalea, pink azalea



9 Elderberry · *Sambucus* · 🐦

Why: Fruit eaten by many birds, at least 48 species including thrushes, flycatchers, woodpeckers, and grosbeaks; excellent cover plant for birds.
Native examples: American black, red



10 Honeysuckle · *Lonicera* · 🐦

Why: This vine is an excellent food source for hummingbirds and 37 butterfly species; will flower repeatedly for three seasons; beware invasives.
Native examples: trumpet/coral



best bet for bugs



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Baltimore City-approved street tree

Top 10 Herbaceous Plants for Your Wildlife Garden



Goldenrod · *Solidago* · 🦋🐦

Why: There are 125 species of goldenrod native to the US, supporting 115 species of butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) as well as spiders and birds.
Native examples: Canada, Atlantic, white, wreath, showy, aniscented



Aster · *Aster* · 🦋🐦

Why: Huge family of flowers which support 109 Lepidopteran species; provide abundant pollen for bees and butterflies with range of bloom periods.
Native examples: blue wood, big leaf, heath, New England, zigzag



Sunflower · *Helianthus* · 🦋🐦

Why: Provide lots of nectar and pollen, and the seeds are eaten by many birds including finches, sparrows, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, cardinals.
Native examples: common, thinleaf, woodland, hairy, cheerful, prairie



Joe-pye weed · *Eupatorium* · 🦋

Why: Best native alternative to invasive Butterfly Bush; produces tons of pollen and nectar for butterflies while feeding 41 caterpillar species as well.
Native examples: hollow, sweet, three-nerved



Morning glory · *Ipomoea*

Why: Leaves and other plant parts provide food for 39 species of moths and butterflies; great alternative to invasive morning glory species
Native examples: whitestar, man of the earth



Sedges · *Carex* · ®

Why: Many native sedges are endangered; support 36 species of Lepidopteran; often neglected but essential element for wildlife in our gardens.
Native examples: thicket, broadwing, whitetinge, eastern narrowleaf



Lupine · *Lupinus* · ®

Why: This endangered plant is a food source for 33 species of Lepidopterans including many endangered butterflies, such as the Karner Blue.
Native examples: sundial



Violets · *Viola*

Why: Violets are host plants for a group of endangered butterflies, the Fritillaries; choose several species for early spring color and wildlife habitat.
Native examples: common blue, arrowleaf, roundleaf yellow, early blue



Rye, wheat, bottlebrush grass · *Elymus*

Why: Supports 31 different kinds of moths and butterflies; establishes easily providing quick cover; versatile with little to no maintenance
Native examples: eastern bottlebrush, early wildrye, hairy wildrye



Black/brown-eyed Susan, coneflower · *Rudbeckia* · 🐦

Why: Maryland's state flower is a bird favorite, providing seeds for goldfinches, blue jays, and cardinals, as well as nectar for bees and butterflies.
Native examples: blackeyed Susan, browneyed Susan, cutleaf coneflower

Container Species for Your Wildlife Garden



Goldenrod · *Solidago* · 🦋🐦🐝☀️☀️☀️

Black-eyed Susan · *Rudbeckia* · 🐦☀️☀️



Coneflower · *Echinacea* · 🐦☀️☀️

Beebalm/Bergamot · *Monarda* · 🐝☀️☀️



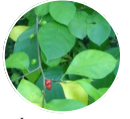
Creeping phlox · *Phlox stolonifera* · 🦋☀️☀️

White wood aster · *Eurybia divaricata* · ☀️☀️



Wild geranium · *Geranium maculatum* · 🐦☀️☀️

Spicebush · *Lindera benzoin* · 🦋🐦☀️☀️



Coral honeysuckle · *Lonicera sempervirens* · 🐝🐦☀️☀️

Ninebark · *Physocarpus opulifolius* · 🐦☀️☀️



Blueberry · *Vaccinium* · 🦋🐦☀️☀️

Black chokeberry · *Photinia melanocarpa* · 🐦☀️☀️



American beautyberry · *Callicarpa americana* · 🐦☀️☀️

Pennsylvania sedge · *Carex pennsylvanica* · 🐦☀️☀️



Northern lady fern · *Athyrium filix-femina* · ☀️☀️



best bet for bugs



best bet for birds

® rare, threatened, or endangered species



best bet for bugs



best bet for pollinators



best bet for birds



optimal sun