A close-up photograph of a hummingbird with iridescent green and brown feathers, hovering and feeding from a pink flower. The background is a soft-focus green and yellow.

Gardening to Attract Birds

GARDENING TO ATTRACT BIRDS

BIRDS NEED FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, PLACE TO RAISE THEIR YOUNG

PLANTS PROVIDE FOOD, SHELTER AND NESTING SITES

- Standing dead trees (snags) and logs that are not hazards
 - Food, shelter 3 snags / acre
- Brush piles and discarded Christmas trees
 - Provide shelter and insects
- Plants are nature's self-filling bird feeders and don't need cleaning
 - *North American Native Plants
 - Focused on medium to small scale plants
 - Don't overlook larger trees if space allows

TREES & SHRUBS

*SERVICEBERRY - *Amelanchier* species

- Size and hardiness vary with species
 - Zones 4 to 9
 - 3 - 25' tall
- Sun to shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Summer - edible fruit for you and the birds
 - Robins, waxwings, cardinals, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks and more
- Nesting sites

MOUNTAIN ASH - *Sorbus* species

- Susceptible to a variety of diseases and borers
- Requires moist, well-drained soil for healthy growth
- *American Mountain Ash - *Sorbus americana*
 - White flowers
 - Orange-red fall fruit
 - Orange-yellow to reddish-purple fall color
 - 10 - 30' tall and more upright
 - Zone 2
 - Short lived
 - Prefers moist, well-drained soil
 - ♦ A bit more drought tolerant than European

- European Mountain Ash - *Sorbus aucuparia*
 - Short lived
 - Requires moist, well-drained soil
 - Susceptible to lots of diseases
 - 20 - 40' tall x 10' or more wide
 - Zones 3 to 6 or 7
- Korean Mountain Ash - *Sorbus alnifolia*
 - One of the best looking and more disease resistant than others, but fireblight a concern
 - Prune at early age to create strong framework
 - Zones 4 to 7
 - Fruit pinkish-red to orangish-red in fall
 - ♦ Winter food source
 - ♦ According to Univ. of Florida, "excellent winter food for migration weary birds"
 - ♦ Waxwings, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, vireos, woodpeckers, thrashers, nuthatches, thrushes, chickadees, titmice, orioles, sparrows, mockingbirds, wrens
 - 40 - 50' tall x 20 - 30' wide
 - Zones 4 to 7 (growing at MN Landscape Arboretum)
 - Nesting sites

Diggers Hotline

WISCONSIN'S ONE-CALL CENTER 811.

Diggers Hotline was established in 1976 to increase worker and public safety, prevent damage to underground and overhead facilities, protect the environment and to help ensure continuity of utility and communication services. Wisconsin's one-call center has helped millions of callers obtain information on the location of underground facilities and safe working distances from overhead lines.

Learn More



***MUSCLEWOOD, AMERICAN HORNBEAM**

Carpinus caroliniana

- Zones 3 to 9 into Mexico
- 20 - 30' tall and wide
- Best in rich, moist soil
- Part to full shade
- Nutlet in fall through winter
 - Finches, crows, jays, cardinals, grosbeaks, thrushes, vireos, sparrows, woodpeckers, nuthatches, wood warblers, mockingbirds, thrashers, wrens, chickadees, titmice

HOP HORNBEAM - *Ostrya virginiana

- Zones 3 to 9
- 10 - 15' tall and wide
- Full sun to part shade
- More dry tolerant than *Carpinus*
- Nutlet in fall thru winter
 - Woodpeckers, thrushes, nuthatches, waxwings, wood warblers, cardinals, grosbeaks, mockingbirds, thrashers, jays, crows, finches, chickadees, titmice, wrens, vireos, sparrows, orioles

CHOKECHERRY - *Prunus virginiana

- Zones 2 to 7
- 20 - 30' tall x 18 - 25' wide
- Short lived
- Fruit ripen in summer (late summer in North)
 - Cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, chickadees, titmice, orioles, jays, crows, vireos, nuthatches, mockingbirds, thrashers, waxwings, wrens, woodpeckers

EASTERN REDBUD - *Cercis canadensis

- Zones 4 to 9
 - Northern gardeners look for Columbus (WI) or Minnesota Strain that are more hardy

- 20 - 30' tall and wider
- Full sun to part shade
- Adaptable to most soil - not wet
- Nectar in spring
 - Hummingbirds, orioles
- Seeds fall through winter
 - Wrens, finches, woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, wood warblers, orioles, cardinals, grosbeaks, mockingbirds, thrashers, sparrows, jays, crows, thrushes, nuthatches, waxwings, vireos

DOGWOODS - *Cornus* species

- ***Flowering Dogwood - *Cornus florida***
 - Fruit in fall
- ***Cornelian Cherry Dogwood - *Cornus mas***
 - Edible fruit in summer
- ***Pagoda Dogwood - *Cornus alternifolia***
 - Fruit in summer
 - Moist, well-drained soil a must
 - Shade tolerant
- ***Gray Dogwood - *Cornus racemosa***
 - Provides cover
 - Vigorous, colonizes large areas
 - Fruit late summer into fall
 - ♦ High in fat, important for migrating birds
- ***Red Twig Dogwood - *Cornus sericea***
 - Provides cover and nesting sites
 - Forms colonies
- Fruit in late summer into fall
 - High in fat important for migrating birds
 - Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, tanagers, grosbeaks and more



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed *Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series, including the latest *Food Gardening for Everyone* DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

CRABAPPLES - *Malus* species

- Zones 2 to 7 or 8
- A variety of cultivars available in a variety of shapes and sizes
- Adaptable to a variety of soils
- Look for disease resistant varieties
- Provides nesting sites and cover
- Fruit
 - Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, waxwings, pine grosbeaks, finches and more
- ***Southern Crabapple - *Malus angustifolia***
 - Zones 4 to 9b
- ***Sweet Crabapple - *Malus coronaria***
 - Susceptible to lots of insects and diseases
 - Fragrant flowers
- ***Prairie Crabapple - *Malus ioensis***
- **Crabapples for Birds by Mike Yanna**
- Crabapples with delayed and uneven fruit softening, providing food throughout the winter
 - Prairie Fire, Mary Potter, Profusion, Anne E, *Malus x zumi* 'Caloaparpa', Birdland, Ormiston Roy
- Melinda's favorite - *Malus sargentii* 'Candymint'
 - Fruit persisting through winter, birds clean it up in spring
 - Good disease and Japanese beetle resistance
 - Availability issues
- Flower buds, flowers, fruit in fall through spring
 - Small fruited ones easier for birds to swallow
 - Nuthatches, mockingbirds, thrashers, vireos, woodpeckers, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, waxwings, orioles, jays, cardinals, wrens, thrushes

HAWTHORNS - *Crataegus* species

- ***Cockspur Hawthorn - *Crataegus crusgalli***
 - Zones 4 to 7
 - 20 - 30' tall and wide or wider
 - Horizontal branching
 - Long thorns shrikes use to stash prey
 - Full sun
 - Drought tolerant once established
- ***Washington Hawthorn - *C. phaenopyrum***
 - Zones 4 to 8
 - 25 - 30' tall and wide
 - Finer texture
 - Subject to ice damage
- Spring flowers, fruit fall to winter
 - Nuthatches, woodpeckers, jays, crows, orioles, cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, mockingbirds, thrashers, vireos, wood warblers, wrens, chickadees, titmice, waxwings
- ***PUSSY WILLOW - *Salix discolor***
 - **Willows, Pollinators & Birds**
 - Zones 3 to 8
 - 10 - 20' tall spreading to form dense thickets
 - Full sun
 - Moist to wet soil
 - Male and female plants needed for seeds
 - Insects on the plants - good for songbirds
 - Mid spring seeds
 - Jays, crows, mockingbirds, thrashers, nuthatches, orioles, cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, chickadees, titmice, wood warblers, woodpeckers, thrushes, wrens, vireos, waxwings
 - Nesting sites and cover

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***EASTERN WAHOO**

Euonymus atropurpureus

- Zones (3)4 to 8(9)
- 12 - 24' tall x 15 - 25' wide
- Dappled sun to light shade
- Strawberry Bush - *E. americanus*
 - Zones (5)6 to 9
 - 4 - 6' tall and wide
 - Part shade
 - Strawberry-like fruit in fall
 - Very susceptible to Euonymus scale
- Fruit in fall
 - Mockingbirds, thrashers, orioles, nuthatches, sparrows, waxwings, cardinals, grosbeaks, woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, titmice, jays, crows, vireos, thrushes, wood warblers

WITCHHAZEL - *Hamamelis* species

- ***Common Witchhazel** - *H. virginiana*
 - Zones 3 to 8(9)
 - 15 - 20' or more tall and wide
 - Full sun or shade
 - Prefers moist, well-drained soil
- ***Vernal Witchhazel** - *H. vernalis*
 - Zones 4 to 8
 - Full sun to shade
 - Prefers moist, well-drained soil
- Seeds in fall
 - Nuthatches, mockingbirds, thrashers, vireos, woodpeckers, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, waxwings, wrens, chickadees, titmice, thrushes, sparrows, orioles, finches, jays, crows

***SPICEBUSH** - *Lindera benzoin*

- Zones 4 to 9
- 6 - 15' tall and wide
- Full sun - half shade
- Sensitive to heat and drought
- Need male and female plant for fruit
- Edible fall fruit attract a variety of birds
 - Supports those migrating in fall

***HAZELNUT, FILBERT** - *Corylus* species

- ***American Filbert** - *Corylus americana*
 - Zones 3(4) to 9
 - 8 - 10' x 3 - 4', suckers readily
 - Full sun to light shade
 - Well-drained, loamy soil
- **Beaked Hazelnut** - *Corylus cornuta*
 - Zones 4 to 8
 - 4 - 8' tall and wide
- Nuts in fall
 - Wood warblers, chickadees, titmice, mockingbirds, thrashers, finches, waxwings, thrushes, vireos, jays, crows, nuthatches, woodpeckers, wrens, cardinals, grosbeaks, wild turkeys and more

***SUMAC** - *Rhus* species

- **Staghorn Sumac** - *Rhus typhina*
 - Zones 4 to 8
 - Up to 15 - 25' tall and wider
 - Full sun
 - Well-drained to dry soil
- **Smooth Sumac** - *Rhus glabra*
 - Zones 3 to 9
 - Full sun
 - Poor, dry soil tolerant
 - 10 - 15' tall and wide

- Both are very aggressive and can quickly fill and overtake an area
- Berries
 - Woodpeckers, cardinals, grosbeaks, vireos, thrushes, waxwings, orioles, nuthatches, sparrows, wrens, wood warblers, mockingbirds, thrashers, chickadees, titmice, jays, crows

***AMERICAN ELDER, ELDERBERRY**

Sambucus canadensis

- Zones (3)4 to 9
- 5 - 12' tall and wider, suckers readily
- Full sun
- Prefers moist, but tolerates dry soil
- Nectar
 - Hummingbirds
- Berries
 - Jays, crows, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, woodpeckers, vireos, wrens, cardinals, grosbeaks, thrushes, waxwings, sparrows, orioles, mockingbirds, thrashers, wood warblers

***BUTTONBUSH** - *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

- Zones 3 to 11
- 3 - 6' tall and wide
- Full sun
- Moist soil, not drought tolerant
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds
- Fruit fall through winter
 - Thrushes, nuthatches, waxwings, jays, crows, mockingbirds, thrashers, wood warblers, cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, vireos, chickadees, wrens, woodpeckers, finches, orioles

VIBURNUMS - *Viburnum* species

- Native viburnums very susceptible to Viburnum Leaf Beetles

***ROSES** - *Rosa* species

- *Prairie Rose - *Rosa arkansana*
 - At least 38 species of birds feed on the hips
 - Zones 3 to 7
 - 2' tall and spreads by rhizomes
 - ✦ Site carefully
 - Full to part sun
 - Drought tolerant
- *Swamp Rose - *Rosa palustris*
 - 20 species of birds feed on the hips
 - Zones 4 to 9
 - 3 - 6' tall
 - Full sun
 - Native to swamp

***CHOKEBERRIES** - *Aronia* species

- Zones 3(4) to 8(9)
- 3 - 10' tall x 3 - 5' wide
- Full sun to shade
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil
 - Tolerates wet and dry soil
- Fruit persists into winter when birds will finally eat

***NORTHERN BAYBERRY**

Myrica pensylvanica

- Zones 3 to 6(7)
- 5 - 12' tall and wide
- Full sun to half shade
- Soil adaptable
- Need male and female plants for fruit
- Winter fruit for a variety of birds

***WINTERBERRY** - *Ilex verticillata*

- Zones 3 to 9
- 6 - 10' tall and wide
- Full sun to part shade
- Prefers moist, acidic soil
 - Tolerates wet
- Deciduous holly
- Need 1 male for every 1 to 5 female plants for fruit
- Winter fruit
 - Woodpeckers, waxwings, cardinals, grosbeaks, thrushes, nuthatches, wood warblers, mockingbirds, thrashers, wrens, jays, crows, sparrows, chickadees, titmice, orioles, vireos

***SNOWBERRY** - *Symphoricarpos albus*

- Zones 3 to 7
- 3 - 6' tall, suckers readily
- Full sun to shade
- Fruit fall into early winter
 - Cardinals, grosbeaks, thrushes, waxwings, mockingbirds, thrashers, woodpeckers, wrens, vireos, chickadees, titmice, sparrows, nuthatches, orioles, wood warblers, jays, crows

EVERGREENS

EVERGREEN HOLLY - *Ilex* species

- Shrubs and trees
- Variable sizes and hardiness
- Check hardiness
 - Plant in sheltered locations free of winds and sun

- Need 1 male for every 1 to 5 female plants for fruit
- Fruit eaten by a variety of birds

***ARBORVITAE** - *Thuja occidentalis*

- Zones 3 to 7
- 40 - 60' tall x 10 - 15' wide
 - Smaller cultivars available
- Prefers full sun, tolerates light shade
- Moist, deep well-drained soil
- A deer favorite
- Cones throughout winter
 - Nuthatches, mockingbirds, thrashers, thrushes, chickadees, titmice, vireos, waxwings, orioles, woodpeckers, wrens, sparrows, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, jays, crows
- Shelter and nesting sites

***EASTERN RED CEDAR**

Juniperus virginiana

- Considered invasive in some western states
- Susceptible to Cedar - apple, pear, quince, hawthorn rust (alternate host)
- Zones 3 to 9
- 40 - 50' tall x 8 - 10' wide
- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
- Fleshy cones throughout winter
 - Wrens, orioles, nuthatches, thrushes, woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, waxwings, mockingbirds, thrashers, cardinals, grosbeaks, finches, sparrows, wood warblers, jays, crows

VINES

***AMERICAN BITTERSWEET**

Celastrus scandens

- **Do NOT plant invasive Oriental bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus***
- Need 1 male for every 1 to 5 female plants or self-fertile Autumn Revolution
- Zones 3 to 8
- 20' tall and suckers readily
- Twining vine
- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
- Fruit in fall through winter
 - Chickadees, titmice, sparrows, cardinals, grosbeaks, woodpeckers, orioles, jays, crows, thrushes, wood warblers, nuthatches, mockingbirds, thrashers, wrens, vireos, waxwings

***CORAL HONEYSUCKLE**

Lonicera sempervirens

- Zones (3)4 to 9
- 10 - 20' tall, not a rampant twining vine
- Full sun to shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- **Major Wheeler**
 - Powdery mildew resistant cultivar
- Nectar
 - Hummingbirds
- Berries in fall through winter
 - Quail, purple finches, goldfinches, thrushes, robins

TRUMPET VINE - *Campsis radicans

- Zones 4 to 9
- 30 - 40' rampant growing
 - Regular pruning needed to keep in bounds
- Invasive in some parts of the country
- Full sun
- Adaptable to variety of soils
- No blooms
 - Immature plant
 - Excess nitrogen
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds, orioles
- Seeds
 - Chickadees, titmice, sparrows, cardinals, grosbeaks, woodpeckers, orioles, jays, crows, thrushes, wood warblers, nuthatches, mockingbirds, thrashers, wrens, vireos, waxwings

***NATIVE WILD GRAPE - *Vitis* species**

- Zones vary with species
- Very vigorous to rampant vines
 - Can climb and cover other plants
- Fruit in late summer through fall
 - Dried fruit eaten in winter by over 50 species of birds including robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, orioles, wild turkeys, pileated woodpeckers, mockingbirds, thrashers and more
- Excellent nest sites, nest material (shredding bark), cover

***VIRGINIA CREEPER**

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

- Zones (3)4 to 9
- 30 - 50' very aggressive vine / groundcover that reseeds
- Holdfast tendrils secrete calcium carbonate that acts like glue
- Full sun to shade
- Adaptable to most soil
- Fruit in fall through winter is important for many bird species
 - Robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, cardinals, grosbeaks, starlings, wild turkeys, vireos, warblers, pileated woodpeckers, sparrows, orioles, nuthatches, mockingbirds, thrashers, waxwings, wrens, chickadees, titmice, jays, crows and more
- Nesting sites, cover

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

SHADE TOLERANT

*JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT - *Arisaema triphyllum*

- Zones 4 to 9
- 12 - 24" tall x 12 - 18" wide
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, organic soil
- Red berries in late summer
 - Cardinals, grosbeaks, finches, sparrows, chickadees, woodpeckers, jays, crows

*WOODLAND PHLOX - *Phlox divaricata*

- The invasive Dame's Rocket is often misidentified as woodland phlox
- Zones 3 to 8
- Part shade
- Rich soil, but will tolerate dry soil
- Nectar
 - Hummingbirds, possible orioles
- Seeds in summer
 - Woodpeckers, wrens, jays, crows, orioles, sparrows, nuthatches, thrushes, wood warblers, mockingbirds, thrashers, cardinals, grosbeaks, vireos, chickadees, titmice, waxwings

*COLUMBINE - *Aquilegia canadensis*

- Zones 3 to 8
- 1 to 3' tall
- Reseeds readily
- Full sun to part shade
- Well-drained soil
- Nectar
 - Hummingbirds, orioles
- Seeds in summer

- Waxwings, sparrows, orioles, wood warblers, vireos, mockingbirds, thrashers

*CRANE'S BILL GERANIUM

Geranium maculatum

- Zones 3 to 8
- 1 - 2' tall
- Part to full shade
- Well-drained soil
 - Will tolerate soil with consistently moist soil
- Seeds in summer
 - Thrushes, mockingbirds, thrashers, orioles, woodpeckers, vireos, sparrows, wood warblers, cardinals, grosbeaks, jays, crows, finches, waxwings, nuthatches, chickadees, wrens

*VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN MINT

Pycnanthemum virginianum

- Zones 3 to 7
- 2 - 3', spreads by rhizomes
- Seeds spread by wind
- Full to part sun
- Moist to wet soil
- Seeds in late summer through fall
 - Vireos, orioles, mockingbirds, thrashers, waxwings, sparrows, wood warblers

*WOODLAND SUNFLOWER

Helianthus divaricatus

- Zones 3 to 8
- 4 - 6' tall
 - Divide every 3 to 4 years to control spread
- Part shade
- Well-drained to dry soil

- Seeds in late summer through fall
 - Chickadees, titmice, mockingbirds, thrashers, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, wrens, thrushes, woodpeckers, jays, crows, vireos, waxwings, nuthatches, sparrows, orioles

*JEWELWEED - *Impatiens capensis*

- Annual
- 2 - 5' tall
- Part shade
- Moist soil
- Self seeding - so appears yearly
- Nectar in mid summer through fall
 - Hummingbirds - needed for their fall migration
- Seeds in fall to winter
 - Vireos, woodpeckers, jays, crows, cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, waxwings, mockingbirds, thrashers, orioles, chickadees, titmice, finches, wood warblers

*WHITE TURTLEHEAD - *Chelone glabra*

- Zones 3 to 8
- 2 - 4' tall
- Full to part shade
- Moist to wet soil
- Nectar late season
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds fall to winter
 - Orioles, nuthatches, woodpeckers, vireos, cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, mockingbirds, thrashers, chickadees, titmice, jays, crows, thrushes, waxwings, wood warblers, wrens

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

PART TO FULL SUN

***VIRGINIA STRAWBERRY**

Fragaria virginiana

- Zones 3 to 9
- 3 - 6", spreads by runners
- Full sun to light shade
- Well-drained to dry soil
- Edible fruit for you and the birds
 - Wrens, thrushes, orioles, woodpeckers, jays, crows, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, sparrows, waxwings, mockingbirds, thrashers, vireos

***BEARDTONGUE** - *Penstemon digitalis*

- Zones 3 to 8
- 2 - 3' tall
- Full sun to part shade
- Insects
- Nectar late spring to mid summer
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds in late summer through winter
 - Variety of songbirds

***COMPASS PLANT** - *Silphium laciniatum*

- Zones 3 to 9
- 5 to 12' tall
- Reseeds readily
- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
 - Drought tolerant once established
- Seeds fall through winter
 - Wood warblers, vireos, orioles, sparrows, waxwings, mockingbirds, thrashers

***LANCELEAF TICKSEED**

Coreopsis lanceolata

- Zones 3 to 9
- 1 - 2' tall
- Full sun
- Well-drained to dry soil
- Seeds in late summer
 - Sparrows, wood warblers, mockingbirds, thrashers, waxwings, nuthatches, orioles, woodpeckers, finches, jays, crows, cardinals, grosbeaks, chickadees, titmice, vireos

***POKEWEED** - *Phytolacca americana*

- Zones 4 to 8
- 4 - 10' tall x 3 - 5' wide
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Berries in summer through fall
 - Cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, waxwings, thrushes, orioles, finches, chickadees, titmice, jays, crows, mockingbirds, thrashers, woodpeckers
- **All parts poisonous to humans**

***RUDBECKIAS** - *Rudbeckia* species

- Black-eyed Susan - *Rudbeckia hirta*
 - Zones 3 to 10
 - 1 - 3' tall
 - Full to part sun
 - Moist, well-drained soil
- Green-head Coneflower - *R. laciniata*
- Orange Coneflower - *R. fulgida*
 - Zones 4 to 8
 - 2 - 4' tall
 - Full to part sun

- Moist, rich soil
 - ✦ Drought tolerant once established
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds in late summer through winter
 - Thrushes, woodpeckers, nuthatches, sparrows, mockingbirds, thrashers, wood warblers, wrens, vireos, grosbeaks, waxwings, jays, crows, orioles, chickadees, titmice

***MONARDAS** - *Monarda* species

- **Oswego Tea** - *Monarda fistulosa*
 - Zones 3 to 9
 - 2 - 4' tall
 - Reseeds readily
 - Full to part sun
 - Moist to dry soil
- **Red Bee Balm** - *Monarda didyma*
 - Zones 4 to 7
 - 3 - 5' tall
 - Full to part sun
 - Moist, rich soil
- **Spotted Bee Balm** - *Monarda punctata*
 - Zones 3 to 10, biennial
 - 1 - 3' tall
 - Self seeds, but not overly aggressive
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Well-drained to dry soil
- Nectar in summer through fall
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds in late summer through winter
 - Chickadees, titmice, cardinals, grosbeaks, waxwings, woodpeckers, jays, crows, mockingbirds, thrashers, thrushes, orioles, wood warblers, wrens, vireos, nuthatches

***GRAY HEADED CONEFLOWER**

Ratibida pinnata

- Zones 3 to 9
- 3 - 4' tall, narrowly upright
- Full sun
- Well-drained to dry soil
 - Drought tolerant
- Seeds in late summer through winter
 - Vireos, mockingbirds, thrashers, wood warblers, orioles, sparrows

***PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER**

Echinacea pallida

- Zones 4 to 8
- 3 - 5' tall
- Full sun
- Moist, well-drained to dry soil
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds in late summer through winter
 - Chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, vireos, jays, crows, waxwings, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, finches, sparrows, mockingbirds, thrashers, orioles

HAREBELL - *Campanula rotundifolia

- Zones 2 to 7
- 1 to 2' tall
- Reseeds readily
- Full sun
- Well-drained to dry soil
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds

MICHIGAN LILY - *Lilium michiganense

- Zones 3 to 8
- 5' tall
- Full sun
- Moist to wet soil with drainage
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds in late summer
 - Wood warblers, sparrows, mockingbirds, thrashers, vireos, waxwings, orioles

NODDING ONION - *Allium cernuum

- Zones 3 to 8
- 1 - 2' tall
- Reseeds readily
- Full sun
- Moist soil
- Nectar mid to late summer
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds in late summer through winter
 - Vireos, mockingbirds, thrashers, wood warblers, waxwings, orioles, sparrows

***MILKWEEDS - *Asclepias* species**

- **Butterfly Weed** - *Asclepias tuberosa*
 - Less aggressive
 - Heat and drought tolerant
- **Red or Swamp Milkweed** - *A. incarnata*
- **Common Milkweed** - *Asclepias syriaca*
 - Spreads aggressively by underground rhizomes and reseeds
- **Whorled Milkweed** - *Asclepias verticillata*
 - Fine foliage
 - Toxic to livestock
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds

- Seeds in late summer through fall
 - Thrushes, nuthatches, wrens, wood warblers, woodpeckers, cardinals, grosbeaks, orioles, mockingbirds, thrashers, vireos, jays, crows, sparrows
- Nesting material

CARDINAL FLOWER - *Lobelia cardinalis

- Zones 3 to 9, short lived
- 2 - 4' tall
- Full sun to part shade
- Rich, moist to wet soil
- Nectar in summer
 - Hummingbirds

GREAT BLUE LOBELIA - *Lobelia siphilitica

- Zones 3 to 9
- 1 - 4' tall x 12 - 18", forms colonies
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to wet soil
- Nectar in late summer to fall
 - Hummingbirds

***GAYFEATHER - *Liatris* species**

- **Blazing Star** - *Liatris spicata*
 - Zones 3 to 9
 - 3 - 5' tall
 - Full sun to light shade
 - Well-drained soil
- **Prairie Blazing Star** - *Liatris pycnostachya*
 - Zones 3 to 9
 - 3 - 5' tall
 - Full sun
 - Moist soil

- Meadow Blazing Star - *Liatris ligulistylis*
 - Zones 3 to 6
 - 3 - 5' tall
 - Full sun
 - Moist soil, well-drained in winter
- Nectar summer through fall
 - Hummingbirds
- Seeds in fall through winter
 - Mockingbirds, thrashers, wood warblers, orioles, vireos, waxwings, goldfinches, sparrows

***JOE-PYE-WEEDS - *Eutrochium* species**

• **Sweet Scented Joe-Pye-Weed**

Eutrochium purpureum

- Zones 4 to 9
 - 5 - 7' tall x 3 - 4' wide
 - Part sun to shade
 - Moist to wet organic soil
- Tall Joe-Pye-Weed - *E. fistulosum*
- Zones 4 to 9
 - 5 - 8' tall
 - Full to part sun
 - Moist soil
- Nectar mid to late summer
- Hummingbirds
- Seeds in fall through winter
- Woodpeckers, orioles, sparrows, mockingbirds, thrashers, waxwings, thrushes, wood warblers, cardinals, grosbeaks, vireos, jays, crows, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice

***FALSE SUNFLOWER**

Heliopsis helianthoides

- Zones 3 to 9
- 3 - 6' tall
- Reseeds readily
- Full sun
- Soil adaptable, drought tolerant
- Seeds in late summer through winter
 - Sparrows, vireos, orioles, mockingbirds, thrashers, wood warblers, waxwings

SHOWY GOLDENROD - *Solidago speciosa

- Zones 3 to 8
- 1 to 3' tall
- Not as aggressive as other goldenrods
- Full sun
- Well-drained to dry soil
- Seeds in fall through winter
 - Sparrows, orioles, mockingbirds, thrashers, finches, chickadees, titmice, wrens, woodpeckers, jays, crows, thrushes, vireos, cardinals, grosbeaks, waxwings

***NATIVE ASTERS - *Symphyotrichum* species**

- Calico Aster - *S. lateriflorum*
 - Zones 4 to 9
 - 2 - 3' tall
 - Part to full shade
- New England Aster - *S. novae-angliae*
 - Zones 3 to 7
 - 3 - 6' tall
 - Full to part sun
 - Moist, rich soil
- Smooth Aster - *Symphyotrichum laevis*
 - Zones 4 to 8
 - 2 - 4' tall

- Full sun
 - Well-drained to dry soil
- Seeds late summer through winter
- Chickadees, woodpeckers, mockingbirds, thrashers, nuthatches, waxwings, sparrows, thrushes, vireos, orioles, jays, crows, wood warblers, finches, cardinals, grosbeaks, wrens

***LITTLE BLUESTEM**

Schizachyrium scoparium

2022 Perennial Plant of the Year

- Zones 3 to 10
- 2 - 3' tall
- Full sun
- Well-drained to dry soil
- Seeds in winter
 - Wood warblers, waxwings, cardinals, grosbeaks, woodpeckers, orioles, mockingbirds, thrashers, sparrows, wrens, jays, crows, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, finches, vireos, thrashers

***PRAIRIE DROPSEED**

Sporobolus heterolepis

- Zones 3 to 8
- 2 - 4' tall
- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
- Seeds in winter
 - Chickadees, titmice, cardinals, grosbeaks, nuthatches, finches, woodpeckers, sparrows, jays, crows

***SIDE OATS GRAMA**

Bouteloua curtipendula

- Zones 3 to 9
- 2 - 3' tall
- Full sun
- Heat and drought tolerant
- Seeds in winter
 - Chickadees, cardinals, grosbeaks, sparrows, nuthatches, finches, jays, crows, woodpeckers
- Nesting material, cover

INDIAN GRASS - *Sorghastrum nutans

- Zones 3 to 9
- 3 to 5' tall in clumps
- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
 - Drought tolerant
- **Thin Man** 2017 Plant Select
- Seeds in winter
 - Sparrows, cardinals, grosbeaks, nuthatches, chickadees, titmice, finches, jays, crows, woodpeckers
- Nesting habitat, cover

SWITCHGRASS - *Panicum virgatum

- Species reseeds readily and can fill a large area
- Cultivars like Northwind, Heavy Metal, Shenandoah are easier to use in residential landscapes
- Seeds in fall through winter
 - Sparrows, woodpeckers, nuthatches, cardinals, grosbeaks, chickadees, titmice, finches, jays, crows
- Nesting material, cover

FEEDING BIRDS

- Increase the number and diversity of visitors
- Especially in spring when seeds and berries are limited

FEEDER PLACEMENT

- Feeders within 3' or more than 30' from house to minimize deadly window collisions
- If you can see through the window, so can the birds
 - Adjust lighting
 - Using window decals
 - Break up reflective nature of glass
 - ✦ Smear with soap
 - ✦ Hang streamers
 - ✦ Place dead branches from trees in front of window
 - ✦ Cover windows with screens or netting pulled taut
- Shrubs within 10 - 15' of feeders provide quick cover from predators
- Avoid trees with overhanging branches allowing squirrels easy access
- Avoid low growing shrubs that provide cover for cats
 - Outdoor cats eat over a billion songbirds a year

SEED MIXES

- **Black Oil Sunflower Seeds**
 - Cardinals, buntings, chickadees, finches, grosbeaks, jays, juncos, nuthatches, titmice, woodpecker
 - Also a favorite of squirrels
- **Safflower Seeds**
 - Cardinals, grosbeaks, finches, doves, sparrows
 - Less attractive to squirrels
- **Nyjer Thistle**
 - Finches, siskins, buntings
 - Purchase fresh seed and use a feeder tray that keeps it dry
- **White Millet**
 - Ground feeders like juncos, siskins and towhees, cardinals, finches, grosbeaks, sparrows
- **Nuts and Cracked Corn**
 - Jays, woodpeckers, nuthatches, brown creepers

FEEDING BIRDS

- **Suet**
 - Woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, jays
 - May see wrens, cardinals, creepers, kinglets and warblers

SKIP THE KITCHEN SCRAPS

- Cooked eggshells can be fed to birds providing calcium and grit
 - From hardboiled eggs
 - Otherwise bake for 20 minutes at 250°F
 - Cool and break into dime size pieces
 - Sprinkle on ground, in shelf feeder or shallow container away from your house

BIRD FEEDERS

- **Tray or Platform Feeders**
 - Attract a wide variety of birds
 - Seed is exposed to rain and snow
 - Use one with drainage to avoid rot and sprouting seeds
 - Only place a day or two worth of seeds in the feeder at a time
- **Hopper and House Feeders**
 - Protect seed from weather and bird droppings
 - If seed gets wet, enclosed feeder perfect breeding ground for bacteria and fungi
 - Difficult to clean
- **Tube Feeders**
 - Cylinders with perches and feeding ports
 - Small perches discourage large birds
 - Perches above the port - goldfinches and chickadees
 - Small ports for small seeds, like nyjer thistle
 - Large ports for larger seeds, like sunflower
- **Suet Feeders**
 - Wire or plastic coated wire mesh feeders
 - Avoid netting where birds can become tangled

- **Window Feeders**
 - Reduce the risk of window collisions
 - Birds usually stand in the feeder and their droppings contaminate the seeds

DISCOURAGING SQUIRRELS AND OTHER UNWANTED VISITORS TO FEEDERS

- Baffles
- 10' away from jumping off points
- Away from overhanging branches
- Distract them with nuts and corn at some distance from the feeders
- Don't coat poles with oil, grease or other material that can mat fur and feathers and they lose their insulating properties

CLEANING FEEDERS

- Clean every 2 weeks and more often during wet weather
 - Take apart and
 - ✦ Place in dishwasher on hot water setting
 - ✦ Or hand wash with soap and boiling water
 - ✦ Or no more concentrated than 1 part bleach and 9 parts water
 - ✦ Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry before refilling
- Clean the ground around the feeders

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

- Change sugar-water solution every 3 to 5 days
- Clean feeders at least once a week with hot water and brush
- Don't use soap or detergent
- Don't place oil or sticky substance on ports to keep out bees, wasps and ants

MIGRATING

- Migration can be triggered by a combination of changes in day length, lower temperatures, changes in food supplies and genetic predisposition
- How Birds Navigate for Migration
- Overwintering Birds

WATER

CLEAN AND DEPENDABLE SOURCE OF WATER

- Birdbaths
 - Shallow (2") with gently sloping sides and water .5-1" from edges
 - ✦ Set a couple rocks or branches for perching in deeper bird baths
 - ✦ Dripping water attracts more birds
 - Birds like ground level birdbaths, but more susceptible to cats
 - ✦ Place in wide open area if cats are a threat
 - ✦ Elevate 2 -3' above ground if cats are a threat
 - Place in shaded location in summer to keep water cool
 - Nearby cover for them until feathers dry
- Birdbaths in winter in colder climates
 - Set out plastic bowl with water each day at same time and bring it in when ice forms
 - Thermostatically controlled heaters that turn off when empty
 - Clean every day or two
 - Audubon recommends
 - ✦ Rinse
 - ✦ Scrub with 9 parts water to 1 part vinegar
 - ✦ Then rinse with clear water
 - ✦ Hot water and scrub to remove algae

RESOURCES

- All About Birds by Cornell University
- Audubon
 - Native plants for your zip code
 - Great photos of birds in trees
- Illinois Wildflowers
- Prairie Moon
- Prairie Nursery
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.

March 18th & 19th

Lansing Home & Garden Show

[More Information](#)

March 24th Webinar

All About Houseplants

March 26th & 27th

REALTORS Home & Garden Show

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March 31st Webinar

Growing Nutritious Herbs & Vegetables in a Garden or Container

April 2nd

Siouxland Garden Show

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April 5th Webinar

Managing Water on Your Property

April 7th Webinar

Fragrant Plants Sure to Elevate Your Mood and Garden Enjoyment

April 9th

Grand Forks County Extension's Gardening Saturday

[More Information](#)

April 12th

Elm Grove Beautification Committee

[More Information](#)

April 14th Webinar

Jump Start Your Season and Protect Your Plants

April 27th Webinar

Organic Pest Management for Vegetable and Flower Gardens

April 30th

Connecting with Nature for Your Well-being

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May 4th Webinar

Food Gardening in Containers

May 12th Webinar

How to Plant a Rain Garden



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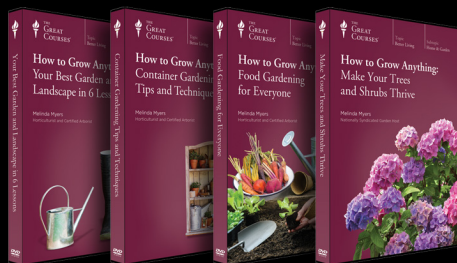
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