

Garden for Wildlife

Attracting birds, butterflies and other wildlife is a wonderful way to make a difference right outside your door. It all starts with the things you plant. That's why this is a gardening program.

When you create a wildlife-friendly garden, you'll be rewarded by knowing you're doing your part to help restore habitat. Imagine looking out the window into a landscape teeming with singing birds, colorful butterflies and beautiful plants and water features that attract wildlife.

It's easier than you might think.

National Wildlife Federation has been helping people restore wildlife habitat where they live, learn, work and worship for over 40 years.

Just provide the basic components of habitat and the birds and other wildlife will show up! It's that simple!

Components of Habitat

All wildlife need the following four things to survive:

Water

All animals need water to drink, bathe or as a place to breed.

Food

Native plants provide seeds, berries, nuts, nectar as food and support insects which are eaten by other wildlife. Bird feeders can supplement these natural food sources.

Cover

Wildlife need shelter from bad weather and hiding places—for both predators and prey.

Places to Raise Young

Wildlife needs places to reproduce and for their young to grow.



Rick Lewis



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5 Simple Tips to Get Started

1. Plant a shrub that flowers for pollinators and produces berries for birds and other animals.
2. Put out a birdbath. Even small water features will be used by wildlife.
3. Provide cover with dense shrubs, wildflower gardens, rock walls and evergreens.
4. Mount a nesting box for birds, plant host plants for butterfly caterpillars or install a frog pond as places to raise young.
5. Put away the chemicals. Natural gardens are better for you and your family as well as the wildlife.



Resources You Can Use: Creating and Enjoying Your Wildlife Habitat

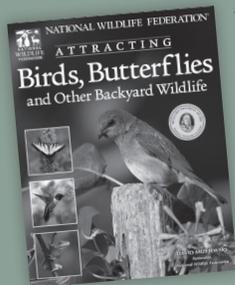
Tip Sheets for Creating and Maintaining a Certified Wildlife Habitat



Find this free downloadable information at <http://bit.ly/nwftipsheets>.

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife

by David Mizejewski, NWF Naturalist and Media Spokesman
\$14.99



This 127-page book is full of habitat tips, illustrated projects and over 170 full-color photos that can help you and your family create

the kind of thriving natural wildlife habitat you've always wanted. Available for purchase through NWF at <http://bit.ly/nwfbook>, or through your local bookstore.

Get Certified!

Any place where you can create a wildlife-friendly garden can be recognized as a **Certified Wildlife Habitat** by National Wildlife Federation. Your yard, a local park, a container garden, urban rooftop, a schoolyard or corporate landscape, regardless of size, can serve as important wildlife habitat.

Certifying is as simple as providing the four habitat components—food, water, cover, and places to raise young—and practicing sustainable gardening techniques such as eliminating pesticides, conserving water and planting native species.



H. Cheek



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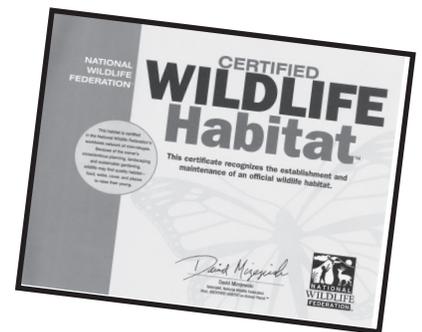


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Why Certify?

Aside from the rewards of offering wildlife a place to thrive, when you certify you get the following benefits:

- Inclusion in NWF's **National Registry of Certified Wildlife Habitats**
- A **personalized certificate** for your wildlife habitat
- An optional **press release** to share with your local media about your achievement
- A subscription to NWF's **Garden for Wildlife newsletter**
- A free one-year membership to NWF which includes a subscription to **National Wildlife magazine**
- A 10 percent discount on nesting boxes, feeders, birdbaths and other products from **National Wildlife catalog**
- Eligibility to purchase and post an **attractive yard sign** to display your commitment to wildlife and the environment



Ready to Start?

Visit NWF's Garden for Wildlife website at www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife. There you'll find expert advice, tips, projects, videos, books and more that will tell you everything you need to know to create an amazing wildlife-friendly garden habitat and to get it certified.

Already Certified?

You're eligible to order and post one of our yard signs to share your accomplishment. To learn more or to place an order, please visit <http://bit.ly/ordersign>.

Certified Wildlife Habitat™ Application



Use this form to certify your wildlife-friendly habitat garden in your yard, school grounds, place of worship, or anywhere in your community. If the habitat meets the basic requirements, you'll join the growing movement of Wildlife Gardeners and receive a personalized certificate suitable for framing, a National Wildlife Federation membership, a subscription to the award-winning National Wildlife® magazine, a 10% discount on NWF catalog products, and opportunity to display a yard sign.

You can also submit this application online at www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife

Have you ever certified before? Yes No If yes, what is your habitat # _____?

If yes, have you moved or is this for a second property ?

Property owner or organization _____

If you are filling out this application for someone else, please write their name in the space provided above.

If organization, contact person _____

Name(s) to Appear on Certificate _____

Maximum 30 characters, spaces included.

Address of Habitat _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Mailing Address (if different from above) _____

In what type of area is your property?

Urban Suburban Rural

What is the size of your property?

< 1/8 acre 1/8 - 1/4 acre
 1/4 - 1 acre 1 - 5 acres
 5 - 10 acres > 10 acres

Check the option that best describes your habitat.

- Home
- Apartment
- Business/ Corporation
- Park/Community Garden
- Farm
- Place of Worship
- School/ University/ College
- Nature Center/ Educational Setting

FOOD SOURCES:

Plants provide the basic foods for wildlife. Feeders can be used as a supplemental source of food. Remember that some creatures will become food for others in a balanced habitat. Encourage a natural diversity of wildlife in your yard to ensure a healthy ecosystem. How do you provide food for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 3)**

Plant Foods:

- Seeds
- Nuts
- Pollen
- Berries
- Fruits
- Foliage/Twigs
- Nectar
- Sap

Supplemental Feeders:

- Seed
- Suet
- Squirrel
- Butterfly
- Hummingbird

WATER SOURCES:

Wildlife need a clean water source for drinking and bathing. How do you provide water for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 1)**

- Birdbath
- Water Garden/Pond
- Shallow Dish
- Butterfly Puddling Area
- Lake
- Rain Garden
- Stream/River
- Spring
- Seasonal Pool
- Ocean

PLACES FOR COVER:

Wildlife need shelter from bad weather and hiding places—for both predators and prey. How do you provide cover for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 2)**

- Wooded Area
- Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- Bramble Patch
- Evergreens
- Ground Cover
- Brush/Log Pile
- Rock Pile/Wall
- Burrow
- Cave
- Meadow/Prairie
- Roosting Box
- Water Garden/Pond

PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG:

In order to provide complete habitat, you must provide places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior and to mate, and then to bear and raise their young. How do you provide places to raise young for wildlife? **(Minimum requirement: 2)**

- Mature Trees
- Dead Trees/Snags
- Meadow/Prairie
- Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- Nesting Box
- Water Garden/Pond
- Wetland
- Burrow
- Host Plants for Caterpillars
- Cave

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING PRACTICES:

How you manage your garden or landscape can have an effect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for wildlife—as well as for the people. Some practices are more environmentally-friendly and sustainable. How do you garden sustainably? **(Minimum requirement: 2)**

Soil and Water Conservation

- Limit Water Use
- Collect Rain Water
- Rain Garden
- Plant Buffer Around Bodies of Water
- Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)
- Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation
- Use Mulch or Ground Cover to Retain Soil Moisture and Limit Erosion
- Reduce or Eliminate Lawn

Controlling Exotic Species

- Practice Integrated Pest Management
- Remove Invasive Exotic Species
- Keep Cats Indoors
- Use Native Plants

Organic Practices

- Eliminate Chemical Pesticides
- Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers
- Create Compost Pile

To apply, please send:

- Completed Application - REQUIRED
- \$20 Application Fee (non-refundable) - REQUIRED

TO:

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION • P.O. Box 1583 • Merrifield, VA 22116-1583
Allow 4-6 weeks for processing. Please keep a copy of this application for your records.

