

Plants for Birds

Choosing the right plants for your backyard can be difficult when faced with the wide choice of species and varieties available. To help make your decision, look for species that would grow best in your backyard. Consider the size of your yard, the soil type, the amount of light and other plants already present so that your plants will thrive.

If you are looking to attract birds and other wildlife, pick plants that are indigenous plants. These plants have more chance of being recognized by the birds. You are also helping by not introducing non-native species that could spread and become invasive. For fruiting plants, choose species or cultivars with fruits that have a diameter smaller than 1 cm and select plants with different fruiting times to offer fruit throughout the year.

Below are some suggestions of plants known to attract birds.

Wildflowers and seed plants

Native wild flowers will attract beneficial insects and will offer natural food for the birds.

Thistle (native ones only)
Chardon (espèces indigènes uniquement)

Wild Chicory (naturalized)
Chicorée sauvage (naturalisée)
(*Cichorium intybus*)

Black-Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hérissée
(*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Common Evening Primrose
Onagre bisannuelle
(*Oenothera biennis*)

Common Dandelion (naturalized)
Pissenlit (naturalisée)
(*Taraxacum officinale*)

Aster
Aster
(*Asters* sp.)

Goldenrod
Verge d'or
(*Solidago* sp.)

Coneflower
Échinacée
(*Echinacea* sp.)

Sunflower var. Black Oil
Tournesol var. noir
(*Helianthus annuus 'Black Oil'*)

Hummingbird plants

Flowers that attract hummingbird are usually long and tube-like and are often red, orange, or purple.



Canada Lily
Lys du Canada
(*Lilium canadense*)

Orange Jewelweed
Impatiente du Cap
(*Impatiens capensis*)

Columbine
Ancolie
(*Aquilegia* sp.)

Common Foxglove (naturalized)
Digitale pourpre (naturalisée)
(*Digitalis purpurea*)

Cardinal Flower
Lobélie cardinale
(*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Crimson Beebalm
Monarde écarlate
(*Monarda didyma*)

Honeysuckle
Chèvrefeuille
(*Lonicera* sp.)

WARNING

Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and other invasive plants

Birds appreciate its berries but this plant originally from Eurasia is highly invasive transforming our natural areas and driving out our native plants. It is also very hard to eliminate once it is installed in an area. Please do not plant this plant or any other invasive plant.

Le Nichoir Wild Bird Conservation Centre

637 Main, Hudson, QC J0P 1H0
450 458 2809

www.lenichoir.org
info@lenichoir.org

Plants for Birds

Fruiting shrubs

- ★ Dogwood
Cornouiller
(*Cornus* sp.)
- ★ Red Chokeberry
Aronia rouge
(*Aronia arbutifolia*)
- ★ Winterberry
Houx verticillé
(*Ilex verticillata*)
- ★ American Highbush Cranberry
Viorne trilobée
(*Viburnum trilobum*)
- ★ Chokecherry
Cerisier de Virginie
(*Prunus virginiana*)
- Currant
Groseillier, cassissier et gadellier
(*Ribes* sp.)
- Red-berried Elder
Sureau rouge
(*Sambucus racemosa*)
- American Fly Honeysuckle
Chèvrefeuille du Canada
(*Lonicera canadensis*)
- P Staghorn Sumac
Sumac vinaigrier
(*Rhus typhina*)
- Lowbush Blueberry
Bleuet à feuilles étroites
(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
- Raspberry and Blackberry
Framboisier et ronce commune
(*Rubus* sp.)
- P Snowberry
Symphonie
(*Symphoricarpos* sp.)

Legend

- ★ Best choices
- P Persistent fruits
(fruits stay on the plant over winter)

Fruiting trees

- ★ Red Mulberry
Mûrier rouge
(*Morus rubra*)
- ★ Common Hackberry
Micocoulier occidental
(*Celtis occidentalis*)
- ★ Downy Serviceberry
Amélanchier
(*Amelanchier arborea*)
- ★ Canadian Serviceberry
Amélanchier du Canada
(*Amelanchier canadensis*)
- ★ Dogwood
Cornouiller
(*Cornus* sp.)
- ★ American Mountainash
Sorbier d'Amérique
(*Sorbus americana*)
- P Crabapple
Pommétier
(*Malus* sp.)
- P Hawthorn
Aubépine
(*Crateagus* sp.)
- Fire Cherry
Cerisier de Pennsylvanie
(*Prunus pensylvanica*)
- Black Cherry
Cerisier noir
(*Prunus serotina*)

Conifers

Most conifers can be used as shelter and many as a nesting site. The cones they produce are also an appreciated food source in the winter.

- ★ Spruces
Épinettes
(*Picea* sp.)
- ★ Eastern White Cedar
Thuja occidentale
(*Thuja occidentalis*)
- ★ Eastern Hemlock
Pruce du Canada
(*Tsuga canadensis*)

Pines
Pins
(*Pinus* sp.)

Balsam Fir
Sapin baumier
(*Abies balsamea*)

Red Cedar
Génévrier de Virginie
(*Juniperus virginiana*)

American Larch
Mélèze laricin
(*Larix laricina*)

Vines

- P Virginia Creeper
Vigne vierge de Virginie
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
- P Riverbank Grape
Vigne des rivages
(*Vitis riparia*)
- P American Bittersweet
Célastré grim pant
(*Celastrus scandens*)

Ground cover

Canadian Dogwood
Quatre-temps
(*Cornus canadensis*)