

Sustainable Plants for Backyard Habitats

Choose species that are native to your region or that grow well in your hardiness zone.

Large Trees (Over 30 ft.)	Zone	Description	Wildlife Value
Black cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)	4-9	Deciduous native with white flower clusters and edible fruit	Fruit: songbirds, waterfowl, and mammals; flowers: pollinators; tiger swallowtail butterfly larval plant
Mulberry (<i>Morus</i> spp.)	6-9	Deciduous native with edible fruit	Fruit: 30+ bird species and mammals; Flowers: pollinators; larval plant of mourning cloak butterfly
Oak (<i>Quercus</i> spp.)	3-9	Deciduous native bearing acorns	Acorns eaten by waterfowl, songbirds, and mammals; butterfly larval plant

Small Trees (Under 30 ft.)	Zone	Description	Wildlife Value
Crabapple (<i>Malus</i> spp.)	6-9	Deciduous native with pink spring flowers and edible fruit	Fruit: songbirds and small mammals; flowers: pollinators
Dogwood (<i>Cornus</i> spp.)	5-9	Deciduous native with spring flowers and drupes	Drupes: wood ducks and songbirds; flowers: pollinators
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i> spp.)	7-9	Deciduous native with white spring flowers and edible red fruit	Fruit: wood ducks, songbirds, and mammals; flowers: pollinators

A plethora of pollinators, including a buckeye butterfly, honeybees, small insects, and even a green anole, looking for a meal are attracted to the bountiful flowers of late boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*).



Crimson clover (*T. incarnatum*) as well as red clover (*T. pratense*), and white clover (*T. repens*) are used by butterflies, such as this giant swallowtail, and countless bees and other pollinators.

Shrubs	Zone	Description	Wildlife Value
Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.)	3-9	Semi-evergreen native, with early spring flowers and tasty fruit	Fruit: songbirds, mammals, and humans; Flowers: hummingbirds and pollinators
Wild azalea (<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.)	5-9	Deciduous native with fragrant, spring flowers	Seeds: songbirds and mammals; flowers: hummingbirds, butterflies and bees
Holly (<i>Ilex</i> spp.)	5-9	Evergreen and deciduous natives with small white spring flowers and winter berries	Berries: ducks, songbirds, and mammals; flowers: bees

Vines	Zone	Description	Wildlife Value
Blackberry (<i>Rubrus</i> spp.)	2-9	Native with white spring flowers and tasty fruit, provides cover and nesting sites	Fruit: eastern bluebirds and other songbirds and mammals; flowers: pollinators
Coral honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)	4-9	Deciduous native with nectar-rich red flowers and berry-like fruit	Fruit: eastern bluebirds and other songbirds; flowers: hummingbirds
Maypop/passion vine (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)	6-9	Herbaceous perennial with lovely flowers and tasty fruit	Fruit: bobwhite quail, songbirds, mammals, and humans; flowers: butterflies and bees; larval plant of gulf fritillary, variegated fritillary, and zebra longwing butterfly

Perennials	Zone	Description	Wildlife Value
Clover (<i>Trifolium</i> spp.)	4-10	Good substitute for turfgrass and an important pollinator plant	Eaten by birds, mammals; larval host of 10 butterfly species
Joe-Pye weed (<i>Eutrochium</i> spp.), boneset (<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.)	4-10	Pollinator magnet with large clusters of pink or white flowers	Flowers: butterflies, bees, and insects; seeds: birds
Milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.)	3-9	Nectar-filled flowers	Monarch butterfly host plant