



GROWING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

“Butterflies used to reproduce on the native plants that grew in our yards before the plants were bulldozed and replaced with lawn. To have butterflies in our future, we need to replace those lost host plants, no if’s, and’s or but’s. If we do not, butterfly populations will continue to decline with every new house that is built.” –Douglas Tallamy

Learn more at:
sycamorelandtrust.org/plant-sale

The following guidelines will help you turn your backyards into havens for birds, butterflies, insects and other backyard wildlife:

Plant with Wildlife in Mind

- Choose native plants in your ecoregion instead of non natives. Native plants are more recognizable as food sources to wildlife and are best suited to thrive in your garden.
- Plant in layers, recognizing the importance of trees and shrubs as a food source and home for insects, birds, and small mammals. Grow large areas of one kind of native plant so it is easily recognizable to the wildlife seeking it out. Include bloom times in spring, summer and fall extending the availability of food and habitat.
- If possible provide a water source, preferably on the ground so that toads, turtles, squirrels and other small mammals have access.

Avoid Pesticides

- When nature is left undisturbed by human intervention it will normally find balance, for example, most insects provide vital food for birds to feed their young. Pesticides, even organics, kill good bugs and bad bugs alike. This includes routine commercial spraying for pests on trees and turf, and spraying for mosquitos in yards.
- Native plants do not need fertilization once established as they are adapted to the soils in the planting region. Young first year plants will benefit from supplemental watering especially during dry spells until their extensive root systems are fully developed.

Provide Shelter for Wildlife

- Delay garden cleanup until late spring, providing ample time for insects, their eggs, and larvae to come out of hibernation in dead stalks and fallen leaves.
- By not deadheading spent flowers the seeds become necessary food for birds and small mammals, and provide next year's seedlings increasing the density of the planting area.
- Consider adding a rock pile, bare dirt pile or log pile to your garden to further provide necessary shelter and habitat to raise the next generation of wildlife in your yard.