

# The Wildlife-Friendly Woodland

*"He that plants trees loves others besides himself."*  
- Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732

## **WHY**

Sharing your backyard with other creatures is a simple way to better enjoy your land. Forests offer new niches for wildlife habitat with every layer - the high-rises of the wildlife world. Trees help build the whole food pyramid for a variety of wildlife. Like everyone, wildlife is looking for places to live, eat, and raise babies. Pick a couple species from each category to provide habitat during different life stages over the seasons. Use native plants to optimize benefits to local species and minimize risks of bringing in exotic invasive plants that don't support all the local wildlife. If you want a variety of animals, birds, and butterflies, first encourage a variety of native plants.

## **HOW**

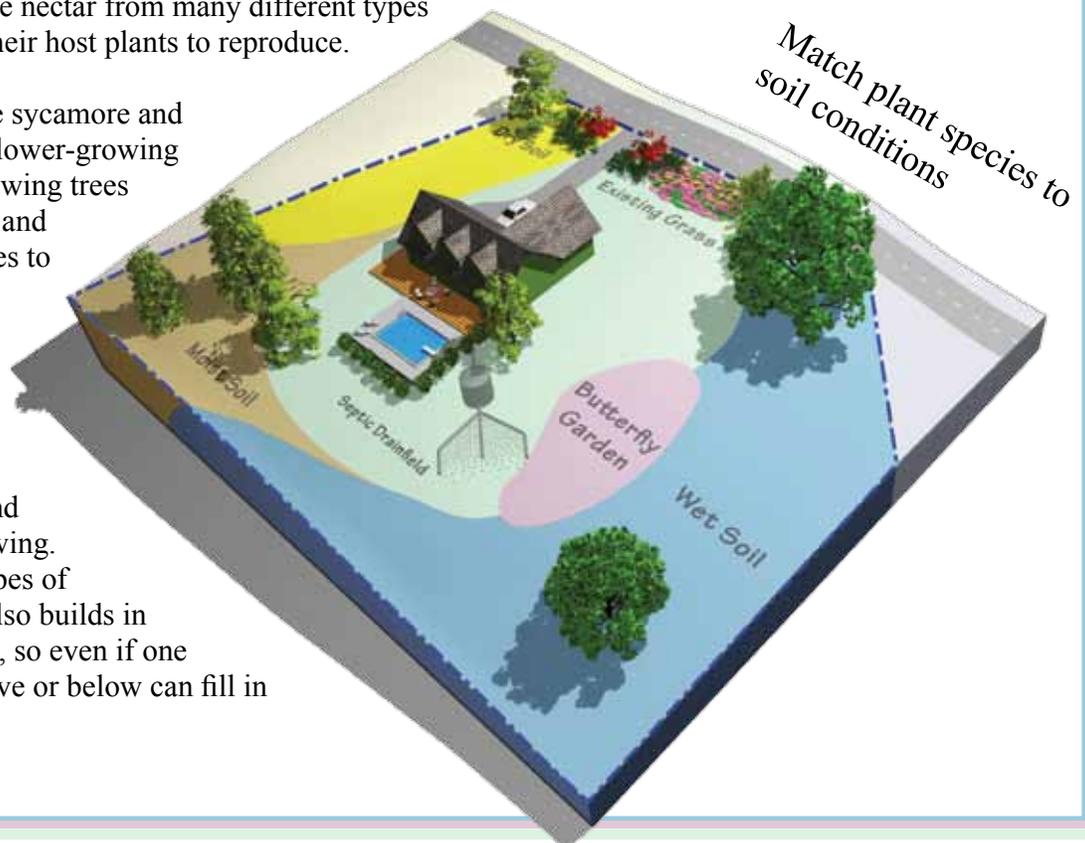
Plant a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers that can provide food throughout the year. Fruit trees like pawpaw, persimmon, and serviceberry are good summer and fall sources of food. Trees with nuts, like oaks, hickories, buckeyes, and beech, are important winter food sources for many animals.

Wildlife need shelter and water as well as food. Evergreens like white pine, Virginia pine, holly, or eastern redcedar can provide some shelter from winter winds. Plant these in groups for a better windbreak. They can also be planted near a bird feeder to offer birds quick cover from predators. Rock piles, rock walls, dead logs, and brush piles create refuges for small animals. Nesting habitat can be improved with nest boxes for birds. Water can be provided from streams, seeps, or ponds, or even just a bird bath.

One of the delightful responses to growing native plants is the amazing variety of butterflies. Most butterflies need a particular plant to nourish their earlier life stage as a caterpillar. Oaks, willows, and cherries host over 400 species of butterflies (Tallamy 2007). You need a hackberry if you want to nurture the rare hackberry butterfly. Butterflies can use nectar from many different types of flowers, but they need their host plants to reproduce.

Mix fast-growing trees like sycamore and yellow-poplar with some slower-growing oaks or beech. The fast growing trees will help moderate the site and make it easier for other trees to grow. The slower growing trees often live longer, providing benefits for decades.

Encourage canopy layers, including shrubs and ground covers that don't need mowing. More layers mean more types of wildlife can use them. It also builds in resilience to storm damage, so even if one plant is lost, the plants above or below can fill in quickly.



Common name	Latin name	Soil Moisture	Sun preference	Flower color	Fall color	Description	Soil Moisture Preferences:
							<input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Dry <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Wet
Chinkapin	<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	no	yellow/purple	Sweet edible nut-like fruits (related to chestnut)	
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	no	yellow/purple	Edible fruits (best after frost), fine-textured blocky bark	
Eastern redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun	no	evergreen	Dense evergreen foliage, likes limestone soils	
Shorleaf pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun	no	evergreen	Winter cover, seeds in cones	
Virginia pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun	no	evergreen	Twisty needles, winter cover and seeds	
Chestnut oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	no	yellow-orange	Acorns for winter food, thick ridged bark	
Smooth sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun	no	red	Fuzzy berry clusters, drought resistant	
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Moderate	Sun	no	yellow to red	Orange fruits, yellow or red fall color	
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	Moderate	Sun	no	yellow	Interesting peeling bark texture, nuts for wildlife	
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS, Shade	no	yellow	Host for rare Hackberry butterfly, drought and flood tolerant	
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS, Shade	no	tan	Smooth gray bark, retains tan leaves most of winter	
Black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Moderate	Sun	no	yellow	Edible nuts, attractive foliage	
Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	white	evergreen	Large, spreading tree with showy white cup-shaped flowers in spring, fragrant	
Red mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	no	yellow	Berries for birds, don't plant white mulberry (invasive)	
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Moderate	sun	white	yellow/red	Small fruits for birds, dark flaky bark	
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	no	red	Maryland State Tree, attractive textured bark, rounded lobes on leaves	
Southern red oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Moderate	Sun	no	brown	Acorns for winter food, bell-shaped bottom to leaf, drought tolerant	
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	yellow	yellow	Butterfly tree, great fall color, 3 leaf shapes	
Bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun	no	yellow	Nuts for wildlife, attractive foliage	
Black huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	All	Shade, PS	white	red/purple	Low growing shrub, white flowers	
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	All	Sun, PS, Shade	white	red/purple	White summer flowers, upright form, black fruit	
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	All	Sun, PS, Shade	white	yellow	White flowers, Dark fruit, birds like it, upright coarse texture	
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	All	Sun, PS, Shade	white	red	Many cultivars, red fall color, white spring flowers, blue fruit, birds like plant	
American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Dry to mod.	PS	brown	yellow	Edible nuts	
Blueberry - low bush	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	white	red	3-5' tall, med-fine texture, white flowers in spring, red fallcolor	
Gray dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS, Shade	white	purple	Berries for wildlife	
Shining sumac	<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	no	red	Red fall foliage and red spikes of berries in winter, forms colonies	
Black raspberry	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	white	no	summer berries	
Possumhaw	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	no	no	Deciduous holly, use a male with females (ie 'Warren's Red'(female) and 'Red Escort' (male)), showy winter fruit	
Witch-hazel	<i>Hamelis virginiana</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS, Shade	yellow	yellow to red	Yellow flowers, yellow-orange-red fall color, good for butterflies/moths	
Serviceberry, Shadblow	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun, PS, Shade	white	red-orange	White flowers in spring, red-orange fall color, birds like fruit, gray winter bark	
Northern bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun, PS	no	semi-evergreen	Fine texture, shears well, waxy whitish-blue berries in winter, fragrant	
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Wet to mod.	Shade, PS	yellow	no	Yellow flowers, late Spring, Spicebush butterfly plant, upright coarse texture	
Wax myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun, PS	no	semi-evergreen	fragrant, can prune for a hedge	
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun, PS, Shade	no	yellow	Red berries in winter on females, need 1 male to set fruit, dwarf cultivars	
Blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	All	Sun, PS	purple		Feathery purple spikes of flowers in summer	
Eastern coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	yellow		Perennial form of black-eyed Susan - 'Goldsturm' a common cultivar, late summer flowers	
Foxglove beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	white		2-3' tall white flowers, hummingbird flower	
Golden fleece goldenrod	<i>Solidago 'Golden Fleece'</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun	yellow		Late summer, early Fall yellow perennial, birds and butterflies like it	
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun	no		Tall clumping grass with graceful seed head	
Lance-leaved coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	yellow		Long-blooming yellow flowers, spreads readily, golden yellow flowers in early summer	
milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun, PS	pink		Dry meadows, pink clusters of flowers, Monarch butterfly larval food, spreads	
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Dry to mod.	Sun	pink/purple		Many cultivars, showy summer flowers, butterflies like it, winter seeds for birds	
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Moderate	Sun	lavendar		lavender flowers mid-summer, 4-6' tall, spreads readily (mint family)	
New England aster	<i>Symphoricarpos novae-angliae</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	purple		Abundant purple flowers in fall, 3-6', spreads readily, dwarf cultivar available	
Woodland phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Moderate	Sun, PS	many		Semi-evergreen, spreading, 8" tall, flowers 12" tall, fragrant	
Joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun, PS	mauve		Tall flower, late summer flowers sprays, butterflies	
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun, PS	orange		Bright orange summer flowers, Monarch butterfly larval food	
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun, PS	red		Bright red summer flowers, hummingbird attractor	
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i> or <i>lyonii</i>	Wet to mod.	Sun	white/pink		Good butterfly plant, C. glabra has white summer flowers, <i>lyonii</i> has pink	