

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

Natural Landscaping:

Attracting Wildlife with Native Plants

bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment

City of
Bloomington
Environmental
Commission

From Butterflies to Hummingbirds

In addition to adding beauty to your yard, native plants also attract **desirable wildlife**. Numerous native plants attract **butterflies, moths, or birds** like hummingbirds and orioles. In the boxes below, plants that attract butterflies and moths are outlined in **green**, and plants that attract birds are outlined in **yellow**.



Pictured from top to bottom:

- Black-eyed Susan
- Cardinal Flower
- Purple Coneflower
- Swamp Milkweed



Others:

- Butterflyweed
- Common Milkweed
- Turtlehead
- Joe-Pye Weed
- Bergamot
- Dense Blazing Star
- Gray Goldenrod
- Stiff Goldenrod
- Wild Strawberry
- Blue Flag Iris
- Blue Phlox
- Purple Prairie



Perennials

Butterflies of Bloomington

More than 200 butterfly species are known in the Midwest. Common butterflies in Bloomington are monarchs, red-spotted purple, spicebush swallowtail, red admirals, and several fritillaries.

What about Moths?

Moths can be just as beautiful as butterflies. While many are active at night, some are active by day. As a rule of thumb, butterflies fold their wings vertically after landing while moths hold their wings horizontally. The five-spotted hawk moth is active at dusk and is one of the moths you may attract to your yard.



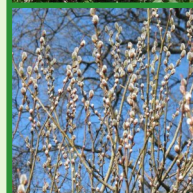
Pictured from top to bottom:

- New Jersey Tea
- Flowering Dogwood
- Staghorn Sumac
- Pussy Willow



Others:

- Pagoda Dogwood
- Buttonbush
- Spicebush
- Virginia Rose
- Gray Dogwood
- Nannyberry
- Black Cherry
- Hackberry
- Green Hawthorn
- Arrowwood
- Downy Serviceberry



Trees & Shrubs



Perennials

Pictured from left to right:

- Columbine
- Larkspur
- Great Blue Lobelia
- Summer Phlox

Others:

- Virginia Bluebells
- Trumpet Creeper

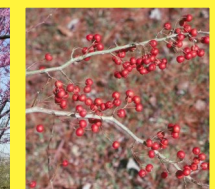
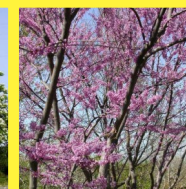
Hummingbirds

People are often fascinated by the hummingbird, our smallest native bird. Completing up to 200 wingbeats each second, the hummingbird requires half its weight in food and eight times its weight in liquid.

Trees

Pictured from left to right:

- Northern Catalpa
- Eastern Redbud
- Green Hawthorn



All photos: Missouri Botanical Garden

Native Grasses

Consider planting native grasses, which provide excellent habitat for animals. In addition to habitat, native grasses also provide food for caterpillars and other insects, birds, and small mammals. Grasses may take a few years to establish and require long-term maintenance, but wildlife will thank you for your work! The “X’s” below indicate which species of wildlife that the native grass attracts.

Common name	Scientific name	Insects	Caterpillars	Songbirds	Gamebirds	Small animals	Deer
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	X	X	X			X
Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>		X				
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	X					X
June Grass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	X					X
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>		X	X		X	Resistant
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>			X		X	Resistant
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	X		X	X		X
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	X	X	X	X		X



From Left to Right:

- Switchgrass
- Prairie Dropseed
- Little Bluestem
- Indian Grass

All photos: [Lulu Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

Summer, Fall and Winter Wildlife Food Plants

From plants in bloom to emerging insects, there are plenty of food options for wildlife in the spring. Providing summer, fall, and winter food plants will allow you to watch wildlife all year long. In the summer, fruits and berries will feed various birds, small mammals, and butterflies. Fall food is important for migratory birds needing to build up fat reserves. Animals that remain all year, such as the northern cardinal, also need to increase fat reserves during the winter. Because food is scarcest during the winter, providing winter food plants in your yard is especially important.

Type	Common name	Summer	Fall	Winter	References:
Perennials	Wild Strawberry Stiff Sunflower American Bittersweet	X	X	X	Henderson, C.L. (1987) <i>Landscaping for Wildlife</i> . Minnesota DNR: St. Paul, MN. Hitty, J. (2018) <i>Illinois Wildflowers</i> . illinoiswildflowers.info/index.htm . Metalmark Web & Data (2018) “Butterflies and Moths of North America.” butterfliesandmoths.org/ . National Wildlife Federation (2018) “Food.” https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Food .
Shrubs	Downy Serviceberry Gray Dogwood Wahoo Coralberry	X	X	X X	
Trees	Black Cherry Pagoda Dogwood Hackberry	X	X	X	