

NATIVE-PLANT GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE: BOOK LIST

Below is a comprehensive and general list of printed works helpful to gardeners and restorationists seeking to use native plants in order to create habitat for wildlife. Not every plant mentioned in the books listed below is wild or native to our region or even to North America; so exercise care in selecting plants for your yard. (Some books, e.g., the guides published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, were too helpful to be excluded, even though they include recommendations of nonnative plants or cultivars rather than wild plants.) To ascertain whether a plant is native in our area, consult Edward G. Voss's Michigan Flora (3 vols.) or the Floristic Quality Assessment.

Benyus, Janine M. The Field Guide to Wildlife Habitats of the Eastern United States. New York: Simon & Shuster, 1989. Organized by habitat, e.g., "Shrub Swamp," this guide lists characteristic plants and animals, describing in detail a few key species.

Cullina, William. Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 2002. Indicates the value of each for wildlife.

DeGraaf, Richard M. Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds, 2nd. ed. Hanover, NH: Univ. of New England Press, 2002. Detailed.

*Dennis, John V. The Wildlife Gardener: How to Create a Refuge for Birds and Other Wildlife in Your Own Backyard. New York: Ballantine Books, 1988. Wonderfully informative.

Dole, Claire Hagen, Ed. The Butterfly Gardener's Guide. Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides. Brooklyn: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2003.

Douglas, Matthew M., and Jonathan M. Butterflies of the Great Lakes Region. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2005.

Dramstad, Wenche E., Olson, James D., and Forman, Richard T. T. Landscape Ecology Principles in Landscape Architecture and Land-Use Planning. Harvard Univ. Graduate School of Design and the American Society of Landscape Architects. Island Press, 1996. Suggests the value to wildlife of variously configured natural areas.

*Eastman, John. The Book of Field and Roadside: Open Country Weeds Trees, and Wildflowers of Eastern North America. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2003. Each entry in Eastman's books draws together an amazing amount of information about the plant, its habitat, and the many creatures it supports. Wonderful.

*_____. The Book of Forest and Thicket: Trees, Shrubs, and Wildflowers of Eastern North America. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1992.

*_____. The Book of Swamp and Bog: Trees, Shrubs, and Wildflowers of Eastern Freshwater Wetlands. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1995.

Erickson, Laura. 101 Ways to Help Birds. Stackpole Books, 2006.

Grissell, Eric. Insects and Gardens: in Pursuit of a Garden Ecology. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2001. By appreciating insects and inviting them into our yards, we enrich our yards and lives.

*Henderson, Carrol L. Landscaping for Wildlife (Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources). St. Paul: Minnesota's Bookstore, 1987. Extremely helpful once you master the charts listing plants most useful to wildlife in each season.

Kress, Stephen W. Hummingbird Gardens: Turning Your Yard into Hummingbird Heaven. 21st-Century Gardening Series. Brooklyn: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2000.

*Leys, Marilyn and Ron. Living with Wildlife: Create Wildlife Habitat No Matter Where You Live. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, 2000. Valuable and useful information. Well documented.

Logsdon, Gene. Wildlife in the Garden: How to Live in Harmony with Deer, Raccoons, Rabbits, Crows, and Other Pesky Creatures. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press: 1983; rptd. 1999. Helpful.

*Marinelli, Janet. The Wildlife Gardener's Guide. Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides. Brooklyn: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008. Extremely helpful, especially on creating habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects.

Martin, Alexander C., Herbert S. Zim, and Arnold L. Nelson. American Wildlife and Plants: A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits. McGraw-Hill, 1951; New York: Dover Publications, 1961. Examines various species of birds and mammals for their use of mostly native plants. Then examines various trees, shrubs, weeds and herbs for their usefulness to birds and mammals. A technical classic.

Nielsen, Mogens C. Michigan Butterflies and Skippers: A Field Guide and Reference. N. p.: MSU Extension, 1999.

*Nowak, Mariette. Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds. Blue Mounds, WI: Itchy Cat Press, 2007. Integrates information about birds with information about the native plants that support them in a wonderfully creative and efficient way. Extremely thorough but nevertheless very readable. Information applies to other wildlife as well as to birds.

Pistorius, Alan. Everything You Need to Know About Birding and Backyard Bird Attraction. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1998. Includes specific and well-organized information about birds' use of native and non-native plants throughout the year.

Redington, Charles B. Plants in Wetlands. Dubuque, 1994. An illuminating book which shows how key plants of various wetland communities are used by wildlife.

Shepherd, Matthew, et al. Pollinator Conservation Handbook: A Guide to Understanding, Protecting, and Providing Habitat for Native Pollinator Insects. Portland: The Xerces Society, 2003.

*Stein, Sara. Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own BackYards. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1993. A fabulous classic.

*Tallamy, Douglas W. Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants. Updated and Enlarged. Portland: Timber Press, 2009. Urges us to plant native plants in order to sustain insects and other wildlife and, ultimately, ourselves. A book that should be required reading for every homeowner.

Terres, John K. Songbirds in Your Garden. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 1994.

*Tylka, Dave. Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People: How to Use Native Midwestern Plants to Beautify Your Property and Benefit Wildlife. Jefferson City, MO, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, 2002. Very good on insects' use of wildflowers and grasses.

Xerces Society. Attracting Native Pollinators. Storey Publishing, 2011. ISBN 978-1-60342-695-4

*Particularly helpful.

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