

Wildlife Depends on Habitat Quantity and Quality

Examples of native plants that can diversify the seasonal food sources and cover for wildlife will be emphasized.

Seasonal Food and Cover Sources (Discussed In Talk)

Summer Berries: Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*), Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), Black Raspberry and Blackberry (*Rubus* spp.), Dewberry (*Rubus* spp.)

Fall Berries: Viburnums: Arrowwood (*Viburnum recognitum* or *dentatum*), Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*),
Dogwoods: Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), **Cherries:** Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Pin Cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*), Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Fall Nuts: Oaks: White oak (*Quercus alba*), Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), Red oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Fall Seeds: Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), White Ash-female (*Fraxinus americana*)

Evergreen Cover: White pine (*Pinus strobus*), Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*): (Non-native but not invasive), Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Winter Persistent Food: Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), Pasture rose (*Rosa carolina*), Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*), Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), Smooth Sumac (*Rhus copallina*), Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), Virginia Creeper Vine (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Spring Seeds: Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

Herbaceous Plants: New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), New York Ironweed (*Veronia noveboracensis*), Joe Pye-weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Orange Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Red Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.), Native Grasses (little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), deer-tongue grass (*Panicum clandestinum*)

Hummingbird Plants : Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

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Native Wildflowers and Shrubs That Benefit Hummingbirds and Butterflies

The majority of these native wildflowers and shrubs are valuable in the enhancement of your an area for hummingbirds/butterflies..

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Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) brilliant fiery red flowers located on dense spikes grow up to 4 feet tall, making this a favorite with hummingbirds. The tubular cardinal red flowers bloom between July and September and last 4 to 6 weeks.

Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*) is an attractive perennial that will grow anywhere from 1 to 3 feet tall in a wide range of conditions. It grows best when planted in rich, moist soil in full sun in a butterfly garden or prairie meadow with other prairie wildflowers and prairie grasses. The flowers (1/4 inch across, blooming on round heads around 1/2 inch across) are very attractive to butterflies and are commonly used in flower arrangements.

Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a summer/early fall bloomer. The flowers are beautiful symmetrical circles of deep yellow petals surrounding dark brown central cones. It can grow from 12-30" .

Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*) is a spectacular specimen in the flower garden. The blue-green foliage resembles a small rounded bush 2 to 3 feet in height. Tall spikes of deep blue flowers bloom above the foliage in May or June and turn into large dark seed-pods in late summer that are often used in flower arrangements. This plant has a deep taproot which permits it to withstand dry conditions and heat.

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) magnificent bright orange flowers are concentrated in compact clusters at the top of branching stems. The flowers bloom between June and September and produce a large quantity of nectar that attracts butterflies throughout the growing season. Butterflyweed grows 1 to 2 feet tall. There is also a yellow flowered variety.

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is often found with several different species of butterflies feeding on its nectar at once. It is also one of the favorite host plants for the Monarch butterfly caterpillar. Attractive rounded clusters of delicately scented pink flowers sprout from smooth-stemmed branches that can grow up to 5 feet tall. Each small flower has 5 curved petals surrounding 5 contrasting light pink to whitish hoods. The plant grows quickly and typically blooms sometime during June through August.

New England Aster (*Aster Novae - angliae*) are beautiful, easy to grow prairie plants prized for their masses of pink to purple flowers with bright yellow centers. Blooms in September and October. Its mounds of pink to royal purple flowers are very attractive to butterflies, especially Monarchs. It grows up to 6 feet tall and works well in the background of the fall garden.

New York Aster (*Aster Novae - belgi*) grows 2 to 4 feet tall presenting an intense display of color in the fall garden (July-October) by virtually covering itself with clustered, daisy-like bluish-lavender flowers with yellow centers.

Wild Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*) a, pleasantly scented member of the mint family, grows up to 5 feet tall with rose-purple to lavender flowers. Wild Bergamot has been used medicinally as a stimulant to remove the pain of colic. It blooms vary from late May to August.

Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) has showy flowers that appeal to hummingbirds and butterflies. This plant can grow up to 3 feet tall with blue-green leaves growing at the plants base and along the stems. The unique shape and color of the flowers are created by 5 petals hanging from a stem in a bell-like fashion. Wild Columbine should be planted in average, well drained soil in full sun to medium shade in a hummingbird or butterfly garden.

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) forms large clumps 12 to 24 inches tall covered with delicate rosy-lavender to soft pink flowers. It is a favorite in the wild garden due to its attractive foliage and flowers that require little or no maintenance and is spectacular as a mass in an open woodland, perfect for the border of a shade garden, or naturalized in sweeps at the base of large trees. Wild Geranium prefers humus-rich, well-drained soil and high open shade and accepts sunny conditions with moisture but will go dormant in drought conditions.

Summersweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) has often been planted as an ornamental because of its attractive and fragrant white, shell pink or light pink flowers that bloom anytime from late July to early September (usually in mid-August), and lasting for about three weeks when in bloom. The flowers of this shrub have a sweet fragrance like its name suggests. Summersweet Pepperbush can grow anywhere from 3-10 feet tall. The pink-flowered variety is attractive to hummingbirds.

Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), a rapidly-growing native shrub that produces winter persistent berries. It grows multiple, twisted trunks with smooth, light gray bark with aromatic, olive green leaves, and clusters of grey-blue, persistent waxy berries on female plants which are attractive to wildlife especially for spring migratory songbirds. Prefers dry soil conditions.

Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), a deciduous shrub, has several ornamental traits, however it is most often grown as a fruit crop. Highbush Blueberry does best in a moist acid soil. The ornamental traits are its white flowers in spring, red fall foliage color, and curled stems. Its edible dark blue berries are also great food source for songbirds during the summer nesting season.,

Trumpet Creeper Vine (*Campsis radicans*) grows from 20 to 40 feet long and either stretches along the ground or climbs on bushes and trees. This vine blooms a brilliant red to red-orange flower from July to September providing nectar for the Ruby-throated hummingbird.

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) is a medium sized shade tree. Its fruit, a sweet, edible berry is eaten by a variety of small birds and mammals. These berries persist through the winter, but most are consumed or fall off by the spring providing a ground food source for wildlife.

Here is a list of deer browsing resistant native plants that you may want to consider for your property:

- Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussaccia baccata*)
- Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
- American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) (leaves are very thorny/deer have avoid them)

Thicket forming native shrubs (produce lateral shoots and form thickets which deer have a hard time penetrating once established :

- Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)
- Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
- Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
- Sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*)
- Sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*)
- Blackberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)
- American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
- Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)

Herbaceous native vegetation (has some deer browsing resistance)

- Steeplebush spiraea (*Spiraea tomentosa*)
- Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*) and other goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.)
- Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*)
- Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomeum*)
- Hay-scented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)
- Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
- Common Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)
- Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Hummingbirds and beneficial insects (such as butterflies and sphinx moths) would benefit from planting an area to nectar producing native plants (with some deer resistance) such as :

- Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) (on a trellis)
- Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- JoePye weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*/*Eupatorium fistulosum*)
- Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
- Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Orange Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Red Milkweed (moist location) (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Mid-story Tree Development:

In order to establish a mid canopy to the forest, the following shade-tolerant trees can be planted in deer-proof tree shelters :

Hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

American hornbeam AKA Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Black Birch (*Betula lenta*)

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) produces dense patches through prolific sprouting which can prove successful against deer browsing.

Light gaps/ dappled sunlight areas

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Big-toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

Pinxterbloom Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*) (somewhat deer-resistant : requires deer fencing)

Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*)(tree forming and thicket forming varieties)