

Welcoming Wildlife: Providing Food for Wildlife




Garden for Wildlife[™]
by National Wildlife Federation

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



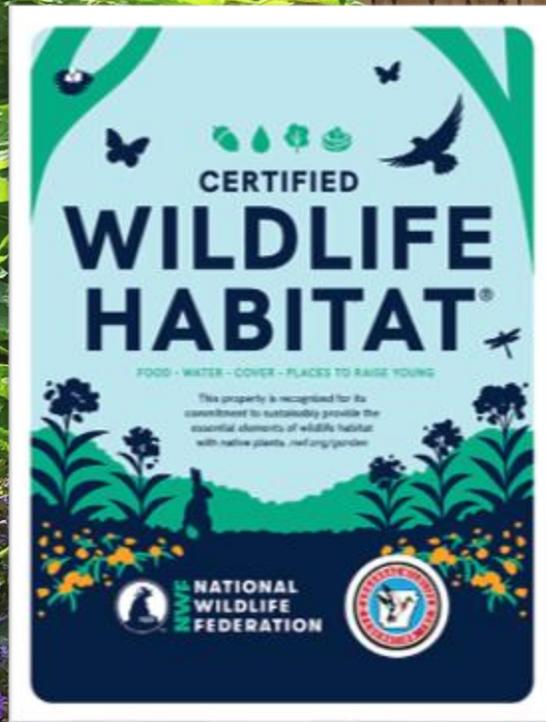
Sim Barrow

Director of Community Conservation

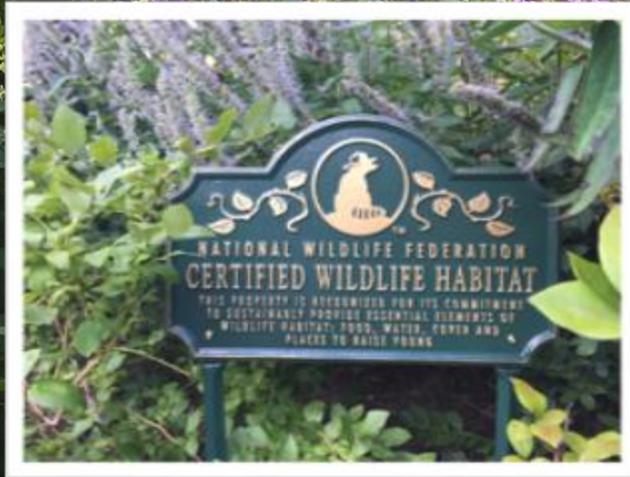
Arkansas Wildlife Federation



”Hey there – Sim here to say that these slides were originally presented to a live audience, but we wanted to make them available as an online resource. I’ve added comments to each slide as needed to make them more accessible for viewing online.”



“This presentation is part of a four-part series about how to participate in National Wildlife Federation’s Certified Wildlife Habitat Program, which provides a framework for creating a wildlife-friendly landscaping in residential and community spaces.”



**CERTIFIED WILDLIFE
HABITAT®**

NWF.ORG/GARDEN



“All of these places are eligible for Wildlife Habitat Certification! Not only does certification benefit wildlife, but it also raises awareness about wildlife-friendly landscaping while improving quality of life for yourself and your neighbors.”

- Home
- Workplace
- Farm
- School
- University
- Apartment Rooftop
- Park
- Place of Worship



Where to begin?



“Whether you’re just starting out or have been on your wildlife habitat journey for a while, these are a few helpful reminders to avoid feeling overwhelmed or discouraged. Expect incremental progress and don’t expect perfection!”

Keep in mind:

- **It’s a journey, not a destination!**
- **It isn’t all-or-nothing**
- **Progress over perfection**



“We cannot discuss food for wildlife without explaining how important native plants are for a healthy natural community.”

The Case for Planting Native



Native plants are...

... bountiful!

**Plants are the foundation
of the food web in any
ecosystem**



Native plants are...



... beautiful!

**Native plants exhibit colorful
blooms, attractive foliage, and
interesting structure**


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[NWF.ORG/GARDEN](https://www.nwf.org/Garden)

Native plants are...

“Once established, most native wildflowers are low- to no-maintenance, saving time, effort and resources in the long run. On the other hand, they can quickly grow and propagate to fill the space available to them so plan accordingly.”

... robust!

- Adapted to local soils
- Adapted to regional precipitation
- Resilient and hardy once established
- Prolific seeders



Native plants are...

... biodiverse!

Arkansas is home to over 3,000 plant species, many of which have unique specialized relationships with a variety of wildlife



Native plants are...

... a buffet!

90% of the insects that rely on plants can only survive on those with which they evolved


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“Our native red and white oaks are some of the best trees for wildlife.”

Oak

557 species of caterpillars



“On the other hand, the ginkgo is not native to the United States and therefore is not recognized as a food source by insects here.”

Ginkgo

0 species of caterpillars



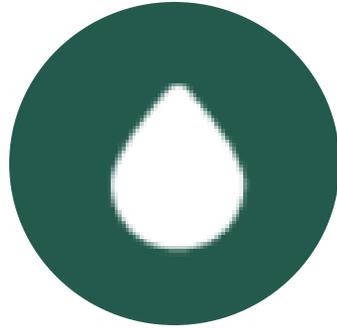
Wildlife need native plants

Let's build a beautiful, bountiful, biodiverse buffet for wildlife!

All wildlife need four things to survive



Food



Water



Cover



**Places to Raise
Young**

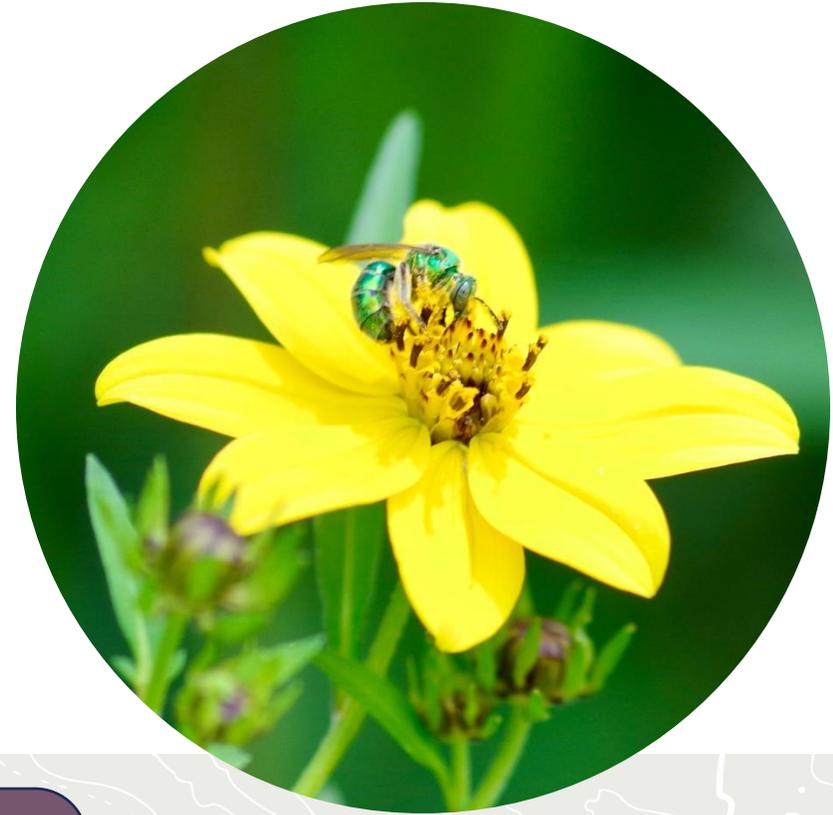
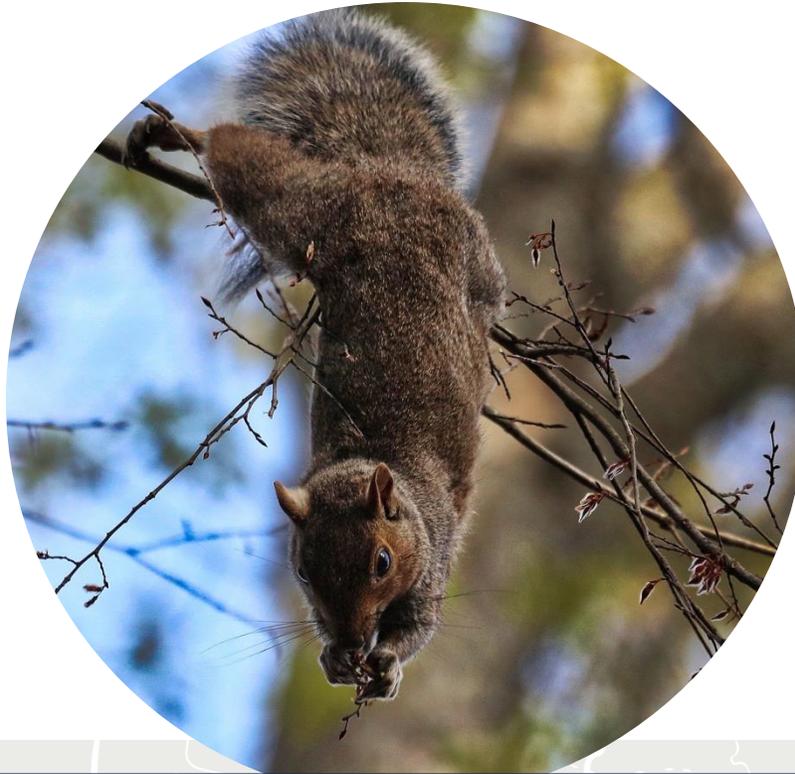
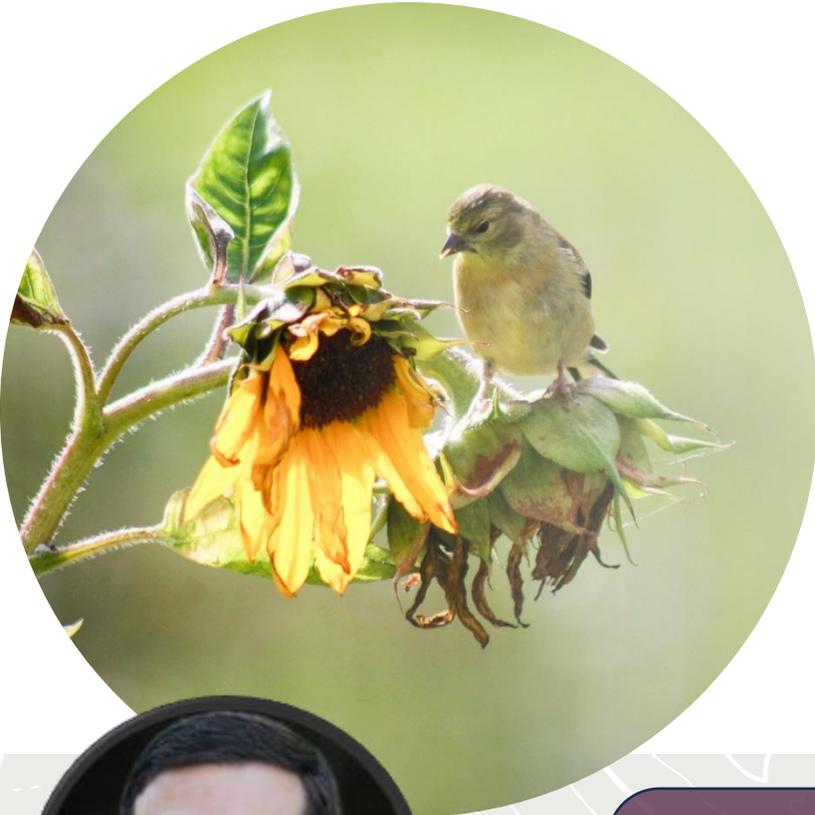
A white bird, possibly a species of sparrow or finch, is perched on a dark branch. Its beak is wide open, as if it is calling or about to eat. The bird is surrounded by clusters of small, round, reddish-brown berries. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue-grey.

Food for Wildlife



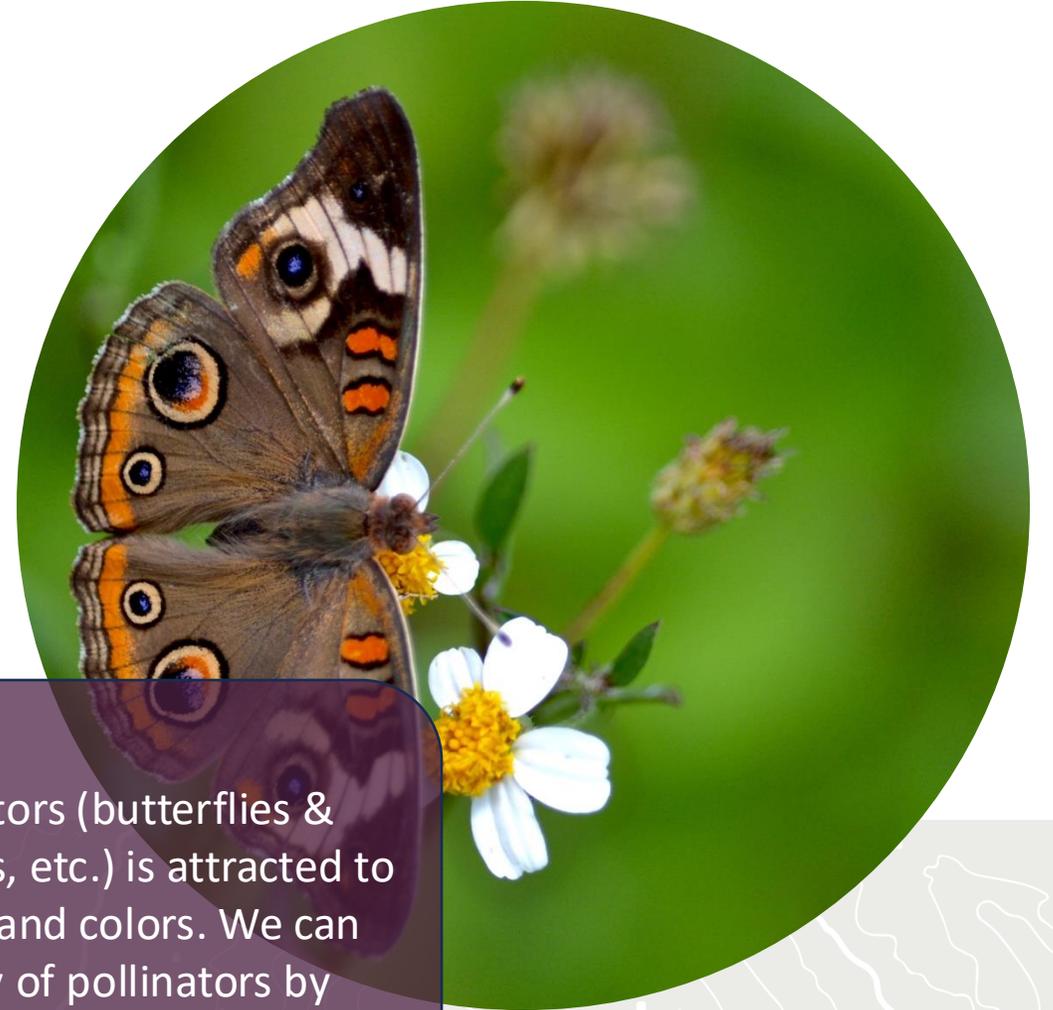
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Nature Provides Food



“Because native plants evolved with our local wildlife, they provide nutrition sources *when* and *where* they need it. Supplemental feeding cannot replace nature’s buffet!”

Floral Diversity Supports Pollinator Diversity



“Each group of pollinators (butterflies & moths, bees, flies, beetles, etc.) is attracted to different flower shapes and colors. We can support a wide variety of pollinators by planting a diversity of wildflowers.”

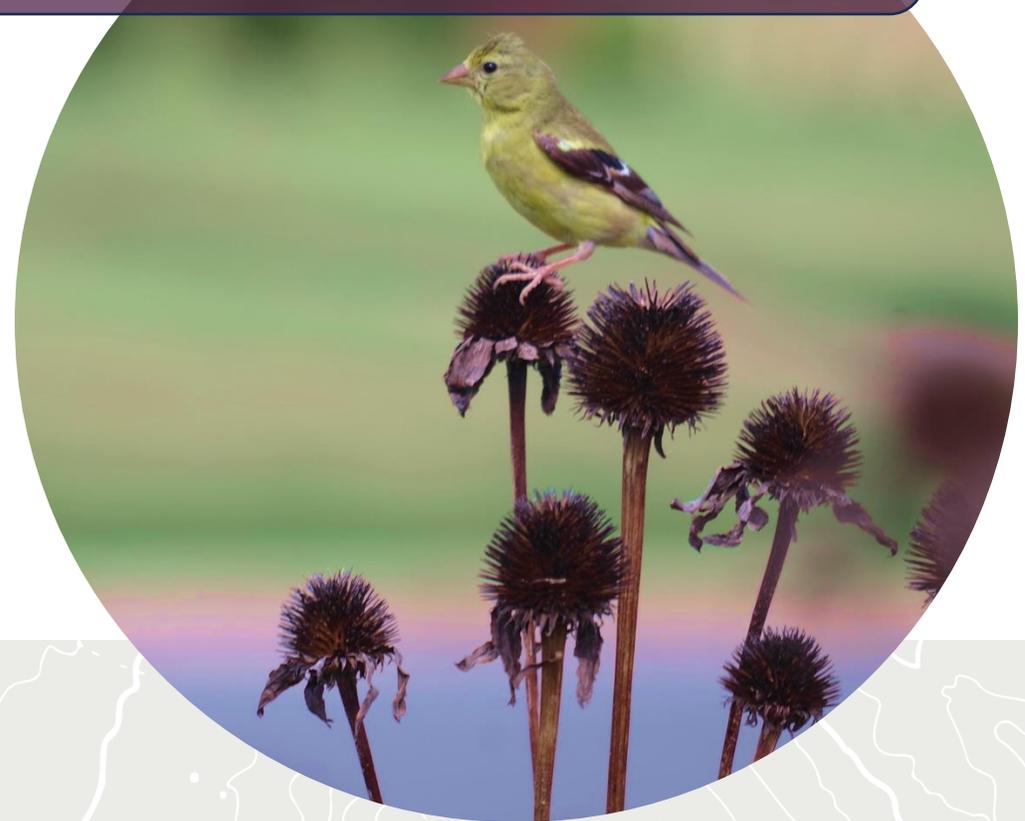
Seasonal Food Patterns



“These pictures show that a single wildflower (purple coneflower) serves as a nectar source for pollinators in Spring, then provides seeds for birds by the fall.”



Spring/Early Summer



Late Summer/Fall



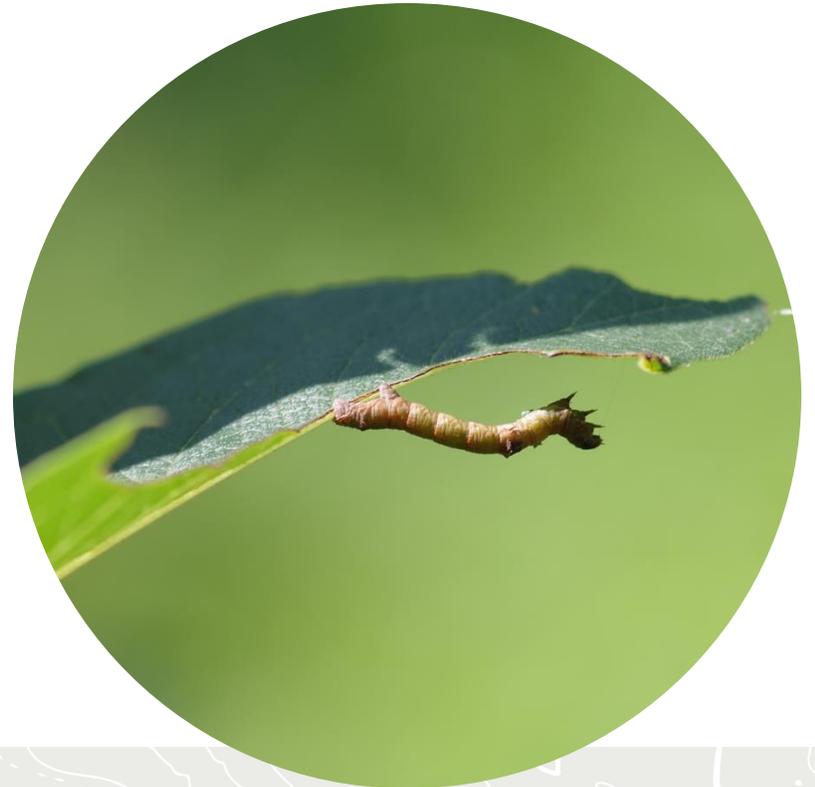
Beyond Plants & Pollinators



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Supporting the Whole Food Web



“Woodpeckers and warblers are primarily insectivores. For these birds, a healthy insect population is critical to providing sufficient food for them.”

96% of backyard birds rely on invertebrates to feed their young



Supporting the Whole Food Web



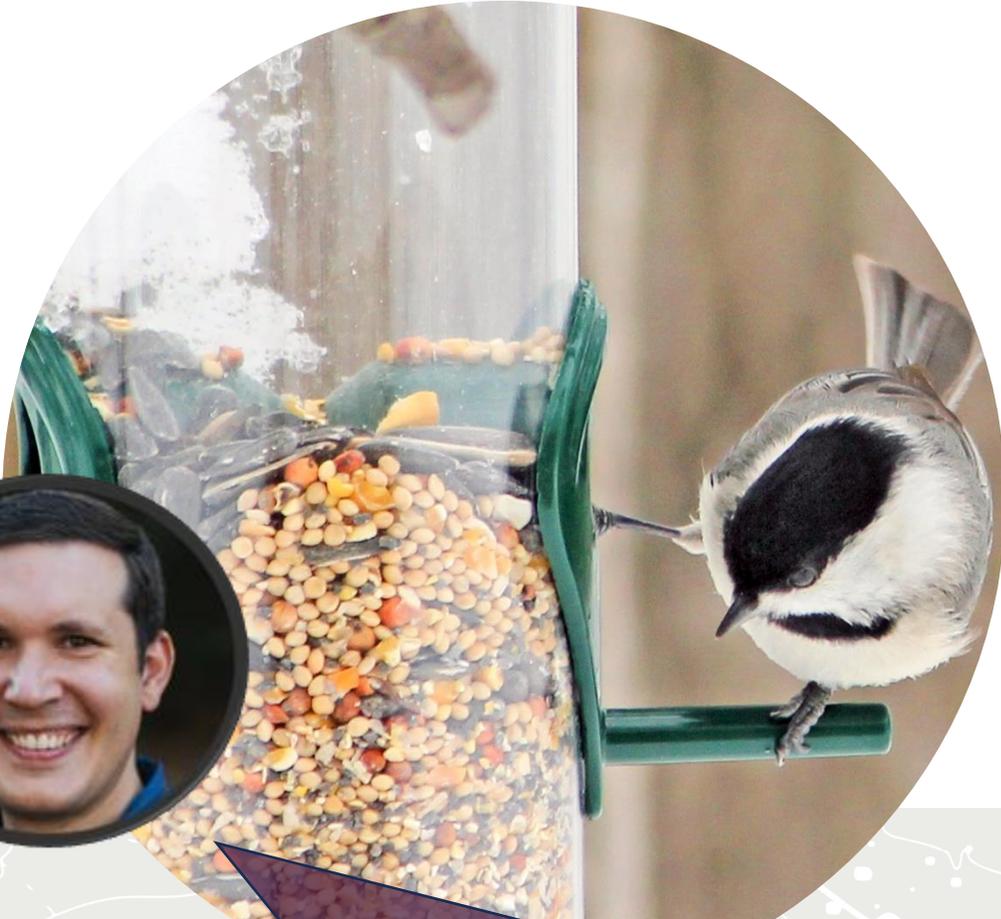
“Predators need food as well!”

Supplementing with Feeders



“Many wildlife enthusiasts enjoy feeding the birds (myself included). However, there are some important considerations for how to do so safely and conscientiously.”

Wild Bird Feeders – Tips & Tricks



“These practices will help keep your birds safe and healthy!”

- Feed in moderation
- Empty and wash feeders regularly
- Keep areas below feeders clean
- Avoid cheap seed mixes with fillers:
 - Milo
 - Sorghum
 - Corn
 - Millet

Select compatible seed types and feeders

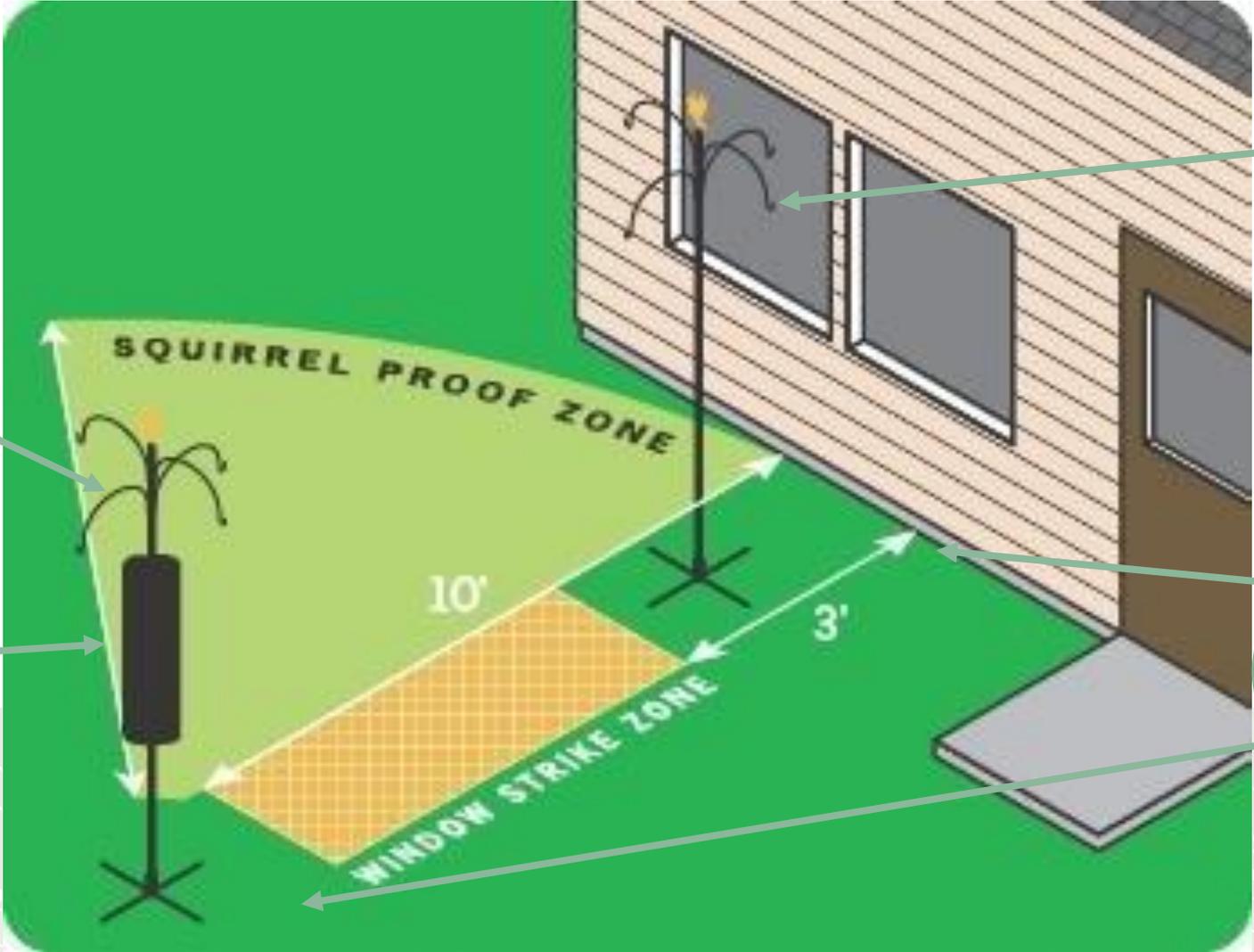


“Different seeds and feeders attract different bird species, but black oil sunflower seed is the all-around favorite for most backyard birds.”

Feeder Spacing Recommendations

Position 10 to 12 ft from cover

Squirrel baffle 4 ft above ground



Provide multiple heights and feeder styles

Feeder within 3 ft OR further than 10 ft from windows

Graphic: Wild Birds Unlimited



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“This cooper’s hawk is an example of a predator that eats songbirds. Some backyard birders are thrilled to witness the natural course of predator-prey interaction, but there are some ways to avoid luring backyard birds to their doom:

- Disperse feeders so that songbirds are not concentrated around a single point.
- Provide suitable cover like a brush pile or shrubs/trees for quick escape
- Avoid feeding seeds on the ground
- If a hawk takes up residence in your yard, stop feeding for a week or so. If it returns after you resume feeding, close them down for longer.
- DO NOT harm or harass the hawks. They too are protected species.”





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“A word of caution about supplementary feeding of other urban wildlife like opossums, raccoons, etc. While these critters may be cute and seem friendly, feeding them can be harmful. First, artificial feeding habituates them to humans which increases their risk of a deadly encounter down the road. It can also contribute to disease spread and alters their natural nutrient intake.”





“Squirrels – love them or hate them, they are ubiquitous and clever! For some, they are a pest that steals from the birds. For others they are a cherished backyard resident. Either way, there are things you can do to minimize their impact on your bird feeders.”



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“One option is to buy ‘squirrel-proof’ feeders. They are effective to varying degrees. Another solution is to feed seeds that have been treated with hot pepper spice, which deters mammals without bothering the birds at all. In my experience, feeder placement and pole baffles have been the most effective solution but your experience will vary.”



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A close-up photograph of a bumblebee on a purple flower. The bee is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left towards the flower. The flower has several purple petals and a textured, brownish base. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Resources

“The following resources are indispensable guides that can help you determine which native plants would best suit your specific gardening needs.”



Plant With A Purpose

Sustainably provide wildlife with food, water, cover, and places to raise young.




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by National Wildlife Federation

nwf.org/garden

**BUTTERFLY
HEROES™**

Help Save Butterflies

**NATIVE
PLANTS**

Find the Best Plants for Wildlife

**CERTIFIED
HABITATS**

Celebrate Your Wildlife Habitat

FOOD + WATER + COVER + PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG

This property is recognized for its commitment to sustainably provide the essential elements of wildlife habitat. nwf.org/garden

NWF.ORG/GARDEN

Beautiful Plants That Make A Difference.

Easy-care, colorful plants that return every year and help wildlife and the planet. There's no better way to garden.

Shop Native Plants



CREDIT: JENNIFER STROM

[gardenforwildlife.com](https://www.gardenforwildlife.com)



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<https://www.arkansasmonarchs.org/>

NWF.ORG/GARDEN

AMCP Native Plant Finder

<https://www.arkansasmonarchs.org/native-plants>

🏠 ABOUT US ABOUT MONARCHS NATIVE BEES CONSERVATION PLAN GET INVOLVED RESOURCES

Arkansas Native Plants

Lighting Requirements

Watering Needs

Spring



Eastern Bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)

☀️ Sun to Medium Shade

💧 Medium



Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

☀️ Sun to Partial Shade

💧 Low, Medium



Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*)

☀️ Shade

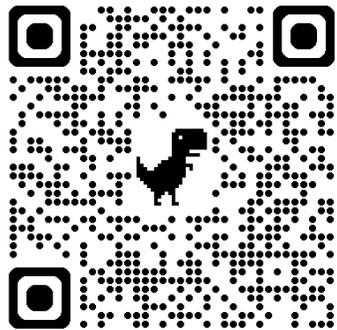
💧 Medium, High



Eastern beebalm (*Monarda bradburiana*)

☀️ Sun to Shade

💧 Low, Medium



“The following slides were part of a seed collecting exercise during the live presentation but contain relevant information nonetheless.”



Planting with Native Seeds

Native Seed Harvesting & Planting 101



- Broadcast seeds on area with at least 50% bare soil
- Distribute in late fall/winter
- May take up to 3 seasons to fully establish



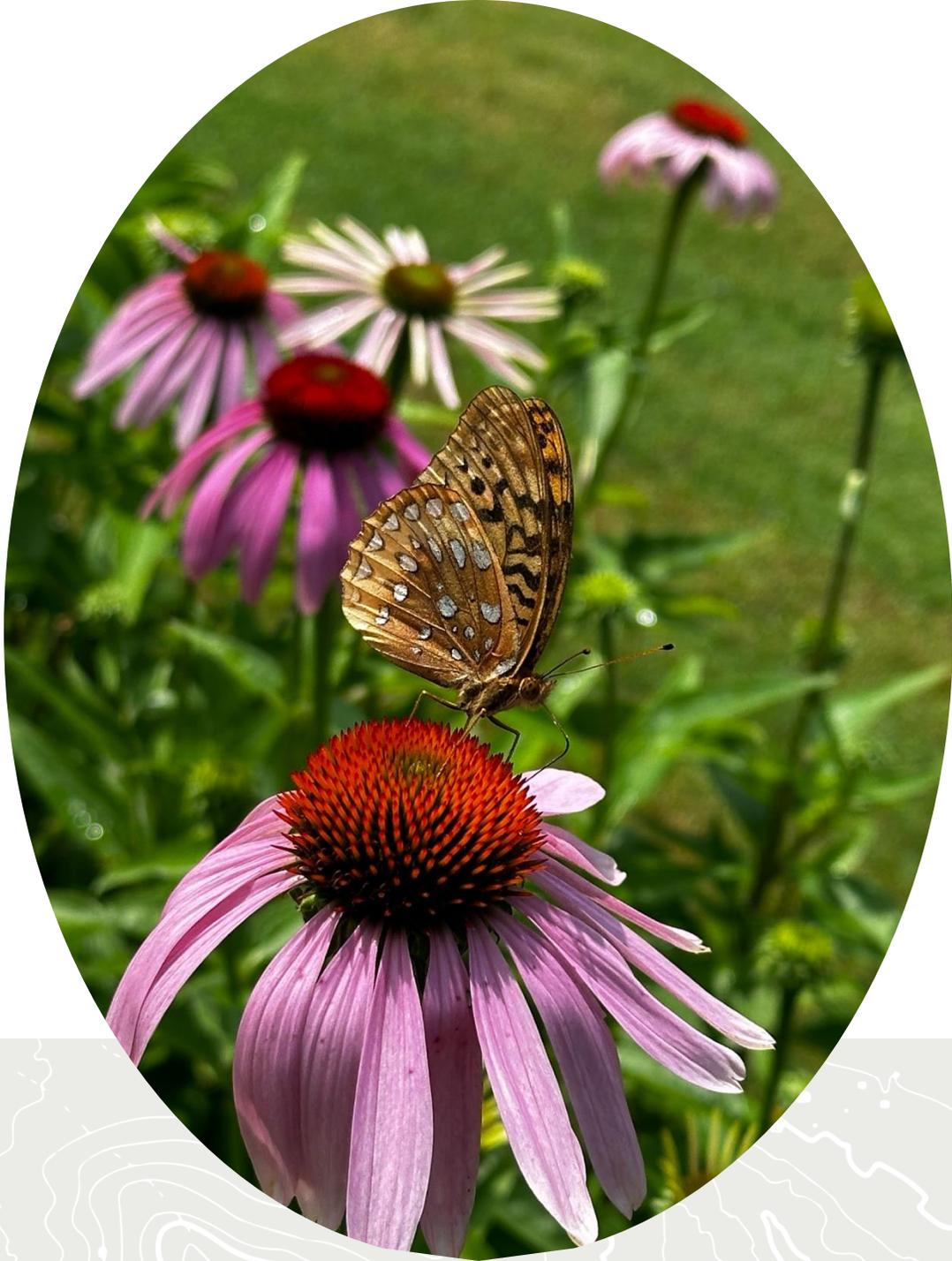
Light: Sun to Part Shade

Water: Low-Medium

Height: 1.5-3 ft

Heartleaf Skullcap

(*Scutellaria ovata*)



Light: Sun to Part Shade

Water: Low-Medium

Height: 2-5 ft

Purple Coneflower

(*Echinacea purpurea*)



Light: Sun

Water: Medium

Height: 2-5 ft

Rattlesnake Master

(*Eryngium yuccifolium*)



Light: Sun to Part Shade

Water: Low

Height: 2-5 ft

Tickseed Coreopsis

(*Coreopsis tinctoria*)



Light: Sun

Water: Medium

Height: 2-5 ft

Black-eyed Susan

(*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Light: Sun

Water: Medium-High

Height: 4-6 ft

Swamp Rose Mallow

(*Hibiscus moscheutos*)



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“Congratulations for making it this far, and thanks for your interest in gardening for wildlife! Contact info@arwild.org with any questions.”



Thank you!
Questions?