



Native Plants for Birds

Overview

Visitors learn about native and non-native plants.

Recommended Ages

> Upper elementary through adults

Activity Time

Approximately 10 minutes

Materials

- > Display materials
- > Examples of native and non-native plants
- > Take home lists for visitors
- > Project area for planting native plants or pulling pest plants.

Activity in Action

Send us your pictures and comments on this activity to info@environmentamericas.org

Native Plants for All Wildlife

Native plants are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem, providing the energy that sustains our wildlife. You can help support and attract native wildlife to your yard by “growing native.” This helps continue the natural connections that have developed between plants and animals over thousands of years. Choosing native plants that are adapted to your area has other benefits such as needing less water and your time for their care and upkeep, if the plants are properly planted.

Native vs. Non-native Pest Plants

Invasive non-native plants spread rapidly, out-competing native plants for space, light, water, and nutrients. When native plants are crowded out, the animals that relied on them will go elsewhere or disappear and the delicate web of life will be disrupted. We can help at home by controlling pest plants on our property and planting native plants.

Get Involved! Discover easy, fun ways to learn and connect with others while spreading bird conservation awareness

Find free educational materials (and much more) at environmentamericas.org

Have you registered your WMBD event? It's quick, easy, free, and an important way to measure WMBD success each year.

Display Directions

- 1. Display native plants that are attractive to wildlife.** Ask your regional or local native plant club to arrange and manage the display. There are lots of resources on the web too. Try these:
 - Recommended list by state: www.wildflower.org/collections
 - Native Southeastern Plants: ncby.unc.edu/pages/44/ OR www.fws.gov/southeast/ea/images/pub-bck7.pdf
 - National Wildlife Federation - Top 10 Native Plants for the Southwest
 - Native Plant Resources for the Pacific Northwest: www.kingcounty.gov/gonative/index.aspx
 - Native Plants of New England: www.newfs.org
 - List of Native Plant organizations for the midatlantic: www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/plants.htm
- 2. Display noxious weeds of your area.** Contact your state or local native plant or pest plant club to do a display. These folks have valuable information about noxious weeds in your state. Visit these website to learn more:
List of noxious weeds by state: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxiousDriver>
List of factsheets: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/factsheets.shtml>
List of the Exotic Pest Plant Councils by State: <http://www.naeppc.org/>
- 3. Helping at Home:** Print these suggested sentences for your display. For your convenience they are printed on the next page.--
 - Plant native flowers, trees, and shrubs in your yard.
 - Native plants help support native wildlife.
 - Native plants attract native wildlife.
 - Control pest plants on your property.
 - Pest plants cost more in time and money to control.
- 4. Taking it Home**
 - Consider providing visitors a list of noxious plants for your area and/or state.
 - Consider providing visitors a list of native plants that do well in your area.
- 5. Activities for Visitors**
 - Choose an area and ask visitors to help you plant small native plants or seed.
 - Choose an area with pest plants and ask visitors to help remove it.
Caution: Research how to remove the pest plant before removal. .

Non-native Pest Plant Display

Print these suggested sentences for your display. Add your own pictures and plant list.

Plant native flowers, trees,
and shrubs in your yard.

Native plants attract
native wildlife.

Native plants help support
native wildlife & plant communities

Control non-native pest plants on
your property.

Non-native pest plants cost more
in time and money to control.