

Planting is for the Birds

What is the easiest way to attract birds? Put a feeder out and hope they will show up? Yes, that does attract birds but imagine what would happen if you planted trees and shrubs specifically for the birds. Not only would your yard benefit from the shade, erosion prevention, seasonal color, and aesthetic value, but birds and wildlife can reap many rewards as well.

The Bird Pantry

Creating a 'bird pantry' has many benefits. Planting the right species will bring in different kinds of birds for a variety of different reasons. Birds like trees and shrubs to perch on, allowing them to rest and catch a "birdseye view" of their surroundings. There, they can safely hide from neighborhood cats and other predators, check out the best building sites for nests, and scope out potential food sources.

Lots of Plants = Lots of Variety

Like humans, birds prefer a variety of foods. A diversity of trees and shrubs will help satisfy many needs. Plants provide seeds, nuts, berries, insects and fruit. Planting native plants attracts birds because specific plant species provide the nutrition that our native birds need. Native plants not only increase the aesthetic value of our yards and gardens, they also provide environmental value and are easier to maintain.

***Adapted from 'The Seedling', published by the WACD Plant Material Center.*

For more info, contact Whidbey Island Conservation District at 888-678-4922, or www.whidbeycd.org

Try some of these plants for:

Hummingbirds: Red Flowering Currant, Red and Blue Elderberry, Huckleberries, Salmonberry, Serviceberry and Snowberry.

Doves: Ponderosa Pine, Shore Pine, Black Hawthorn, Red Huckleberry and Bitter Cherry.

Finches: Big Leaf Maple, Oregon Ash, Bitter Cherry, Black Hawthorn, Thimbleberry and a variety of conifers.

Grosbeaks: Black Hawthorn, Pacific Crabapple, Rose species, Red and Blue Elderberry.

Orioles: Bitter Cherry, Black Hawthorn, Red Huckleberry, Salmonberry, Snowberry and Red and Blue Elderberry.

Chickadees: Ponderosa and Shore Pine and Big Leaf Maple.

Towhee: Pacific Crabapple, Evergreen Huckleberry and Red Flowering Currant.

Thrushes: Black Hawthorn, Red and Blue Elderberry, Red Flowering Currant, Rose Hips, Salmonberry and Low Oregon Grape.

Waxwings: Black Hawthorn, Pacific Crabapple, Indian Plum and Red Flowering Currant.

Woodpecker: Conifers, Black Hawthorn, Red Flowering Currant, Pacific Crabapple, Red and Blue Elderberry.



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