



## Bird Garden Native Plant Starter Kit

Below are examples of species that may be included in our Bird Garden Starter Kit

*Andropogon gerardi* – Big Blue Stem

*Andropogon virginicus* – Broomsedge

*Carex* sp. – Sedges

*Coreopsis lanceolata* – Lance-leaved Tickseed

*Coreopsis tripteris* – Tall Tickseed

*Doellingeria umbellatus* – Flat-topped aster

*Echinacea pallida* – Pale Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea purpurea* – Purple Coneflower

*Elymus hystrix* – Bottlebrush Grass

*Eupatorium* sp. – Boneset

*Eutrochium* sp. – Joe-pye Weeds

*Eurybia divaricata* – White Wood Aster

*Eurybia spectabilis* – Eastern Showy Aster

*Helianthus* sp. – Sunflowers

*Heliopsis helianthoides* – False Sunflower

*Liatris scariosa* – Northern Blazing Star

*Liatris spicata* – Marsh Blazing Star

*Lobelia siphilitica* – Great Blue Lobelia

*Monarda fistulosa* – Wild Bergamot

*Panicum virginicum* – Switch Grass

*Rudbeckia fulgida* – Black-eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia lacianata* – Cut-leaf Coneflower

*Schizachyrium scoparium* – Little Blue Stem

*Sporobolus heterolepsis* – Prairie Dropseed

*Solidago* sp. – Goldenrods

*Sorghastrum nutans* – Indian Grass

*Symphotrichum laeve* – Smooth Aster

*Symphotrichum novae-angliae* – N.E. Aster

*Symphotrichum oblongifolium* – Aromatic Aster

(Actual species in your kit will be dependent on your needs and our availability)



## Bird Garden Tips

Consider planting clumps of 3 to 5 individuals of the same plant species in order to create a larger visual display that will attract local birds to your garden.

Leave dormant, post-blooming plant stems stand through winter. Many birds will sit on the spent blossom heads and feed on the seeds. Wait until spring to clean up your gardens.

Plant species that provide multiple benefits for songbirds. While many plants provide seed or fruits that many songbirds will eat, native species also host insects that almost all birds rely on and provide necessary cover and nesting sites.

If placing feeders in your garden, avoid planting perennials underneath them, as waste from the feed and traffic from the birds often hinders their success. Clean your feeders regularly to prevent spoilage.

Consider adding a birdbath or other water feature to your garden for the birds; just be sure to clean it often to prevent the water from becoming rancid. Plant moisture-loving plants near your birdbath, as they will love the splashes and discarded, old water.

As you expand your native plant gardens, be sure to include trees and shrubs if you have the space. These plants will provide habitat and food sources for birds, year round, as well as nesting sites.

Place visual signals on your windows that are near feeders or gardens in order to prevent bird collisions. Unfortunately, up to a billion birds die from window collisions each year in the U.S.

If you have a pet cat, please be sure to keep them inside. A cat is one of the surest ways to keep birds *out* of your garden! Unfortunately, outdoor and feral cats kill more birds than windows each year in the U.S. Cats are not native to North America, and therefore harm our local ecosystem. Outdoor cats are also at higher risk of injury, predation, vehicle collisions, and contracting and spreading disease.

Avoid using excess, or totally eliminate pesticides in your garden as they can harm birds and insects.

If you have birdhouses in your garden, be sure to remove spent nesting material at least once a year to prevent the build up bird pests and spread of diseases.

## Additional Resources:

<https://www.audobon.org/news/how-make-your-yard-bird-friendly-0>

<https://www.audobon.org/news/why-native-plants-are-better-birds-and-people>

<https://extension.psu.edu/gardening-for-birds>