



# Great Backyard Bird Count



## Native Plants as Food for Birds and Other Wildlife<sup>1</sup>

The list of native plants provided below includes a wide range of trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous species that serve as important food sources for wildlife throughout the year. Birds and other animals feed on the flowers, berries and seeds produced by these plants and may also utilize them as places to nest or roost. Many insect eating birds scour the trunks and branches of plants for insects that are found there. Many of these plants are either already present in many habitats and backyards or they are great candidates for plants that could be purchased and planted to enhance the value of your backyard as a source of native wildlife food, particularly during the winter months. Availability of many of these plants may be limited locally, although some may be found or can be order from local nurseries. A number of native plant nurseries now have on-line web pages that list many of these species. The list of hummingbird and butterfly plants does include a few non-native plants that are neither invasive or a nuisance if abandoned.

### Trees

Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)  
Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*)  
Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*)  
Long-Leaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*)  
Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*)  
Slash Pine (*Pinus elliotii*)  
Spruce Pine (*Pinus glabra*)  
Short-leaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)  
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)  
Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)  
American Beech (*Fagus grandiflora*)  
Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Swamp Black Gum (*Nyssa biflora*)  
Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)  
Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)  
Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)  
Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)  
Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)  
Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)  
Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)  
Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)  
Pond Cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*)  
Hickory (*Carya* spp)  
Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)

### Small Trees and Shrubs

Red Bay (*Persea palustris*)  
American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)  
Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)  
Large Galberry (*Ilex coriacea*)  
Common Galberry (*Ilex glabra*)  
Elliott's Blueberry (*Vaccinium elliotii*)  
Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Tree Huckleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)  
Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa americana*)  
Pink Azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*)  
Honeysuckle Azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*)  
Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*)  
Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)  
Dwarf Paw Paw (*Asimina parviflora*)  
Black Ti Ti (*Cliftonia monophylla*)  
Swamp Ti Ti (*Cyrill racemiflora*)  
Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)  
Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*)

### Vines

Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)  
Catbriar / Greenbriar (*Smilax* spp)  
Passion-Flower (*Passiflora incarnata*)  
Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)  
Blackberry (*Rubus* spp)

### Grasses and Sedges

Any native grass or sedge provides seeds and shelter. Consider leaving a portion of your yard un-mowed (mow only in late winter)

### Hummingbird and Butterfly Plants

Salvias	Four O'Clocks
Firecracker Bush	Goldenrod
Firespike	Coral Honeysuckle
Milkweed	Sunflowers
Coral Bean	Coreopsis
Ageratum	Carolina Jasmine

<sup>1</sup> Compiled by Millie Page and fellow Mississippi Master Naturalist Volunteers.