

## Planting for birds

Choosing the right plants for your backyard can be difficult when faced with the wide choice of species and varieties available. To help make your decision, look for species that would grow best in your backyard. Consider the size of your yard, the soil type, the amount of light and other plants already present so that your plants will thrive.

If you are looking to attract birds and other wildlife, pick plants that are indigenous plants. These plants have more chance of being recognized by the birds. You are also helping by not introducing non-native species that could spread and become invasive. For fruiting plants, choose species or cultivars with fruits that have a diameter smaller than 1cm and select plants with different fruiting times to offer fruit throughout the year.

Below are some suggestions of plants known to attract birds.

### Fruiting trees

- **Mûrier rouge**–Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
- **Micocoulier occidental**–Common Hackberry (P)(*Celtis occidentalis*)
- **Pometier** –Crabapple (P)(*Malus sp.*)
- **Amélanchier** –Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
- **Amélanchier du Canada**– Canadian Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
- **Cornouiller**–Dogwood(*Cornus sp.*)
- **Sorbier d'Amérique**–American Mountainash (P) (*Sorbus americana*)
- Aubépine–Hawthorn (P)(*Crateagus sp.*)
- Cerisier de Pennsylvanie– Fire Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*)
- Cerisier noir –Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

### Fruiting bushes

- **Cornouiller**–Dogwood (*Cornus sp.*)
- **Aronia rouge** –Red Chokeberry (P)(*Aronia arbutifolia*)
- **Houx verticillé** –Winterberry (P)(*Ilex verticillata*)
- **Viorne trilobée**–American Highbush Cranberry (P) (*Viburnum trilobum*)
- **Cerisier de Virginie** –Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Groseillier, cassissier et gadelier–Currant (*Ribes sp.*)
- Sureau rouge –Red-berried Elder (*Sambucus racemosa*)
- Chèvrefeuille du Canada –American Fly Honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*)
- Sumac vinaigrier–Staghorn Sumac (P)(*Rhus typhina*)
- Bleuet à feuilles étroites –LowbushBlueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
- Framboisier et ronce commune –Raspberry and Blackberry (*Rubus sp.*)
- Symphorine–Snowberry (P)(*Symphoricarpos sp.*)

### Vines

- Vigne vierge de Virginie–Virginia Creeper (P)(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
- Vigne de rivages –Riverbank Grape (P) (*Vitis riparia*)
- Célastré grim pant–American Bittersweet (P) (*Celastrus scandens*)

#### Legend

**Bold** = Best choice  
(P)= Persistent fruits  
(fruits stay on  
the plant over  
winter)

## Conifers

Most conifers can be used as shelter and many as a nesting site. The cones they produce are also an appreciated food source in the winter.

- **Épinettes–Spruces (*Picea* sp.)**
- **Thuja occidental –Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)**
- **Pruche du Canada –Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)**
- Pins –Pines (*Pinus* sp.)
- Sapin baumier–Balsam Fir(*Abies balsamea*)
- Génévrier de Virginie –Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Mélèze laricin–American Larch (*Larix laricina*)

## Ground cover

- Quatre-temps –Canadian Dogwood (*Cornus canadensis*)

## Wildflowers and seed plants

Native wild flowers will attract beneficial insects and will offer natural food for the birds.

- Chardon (espèces indigènes uniquement) –Thistle (native ones only)
- Chicorée sauvage–Wild Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)- Naturalized
- Rudbeckie hérissée–Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Onagre bisannuelle–Common Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)
- Pissenlit–Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)- Naturalized
- Aster – Aster (*Asters* sp.)
- Verge d'or–Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.)
- Échinacée–Coneflower (*Echinacea* sp.)
- Tournesol noir –Black Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

## Hummingbird plants

Flowers that attract hummingbird are usually long and tube-like and are often red, orange, or purple.

- Lys du Canada –Canada Lily (*Lilium canadense*)
- Impatiente du Cap –Orange Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)
- Ancolie –Columbine (*Aquilegia* sp.)
- Digitale pourpre–Common Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)- Naturalized
- Lobélie du Cardinal –Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Monardeécarlate–Crimson Beebalm(*Monarda didyma*)
- Chèvrefeuille–Honeysuckle (*Lonicerasp.*)

## WARNING

### Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and other invasive plants

Birds appreciate its berries but this plant originally from Eurasia is highly invasive transforming our natural areas and driving out our native plants. It is also very hard to eliminate once it is installed in an area. Please do not plant this plant or any other invasive plant.