

Species Name	Common Name	Shade Tolerance	Height	Water Tolerance	Attracts	Nesting	Cover	Seed or Berry Source	Flowering Period	Color
Herbaceous Plants										
<i>Carex stricta</i>	tussock sedge	○	2'-4'	RI	S				May - Aug.	red, purple brown
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	rice cutgrass	●	1'-3'	RI (0"-3")	S,W			Swamp & Tree Sparrow	Jul. - Oct.	lavender
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switch grass	○	2'-4'	II, U	S,M,W				Jul. - Oct.	green
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan	○	1'-3'	II, U	S,P,B				Jun. - Oct.	yellow, orange
Shrubs										
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	red chokeberry	◐	6'-12'	II, SI	S,M			winter emergency food	Mar. - May	whitish purple
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	black chokeberry	◐	6'-12'	II, SI	S,M				Apr. - May	whitish pink
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	sweet pepperbush	●	6'-12'	SI, RI	P,B,M,W,S				July - Aug.	whitish pink
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood	○	6'-12'	SI	S,W,M	Grey Catbird			May - June	white
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	gray dogwood	●	6'-12'	SI	S,W,M				May - June	white
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	red osier dogwood	◐	6'-12'	SI	S,W,M	American Goldfinch			May - June	white
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	inkberry	◐	6'-12'	SI	S,W,M			winter emergency food	May - June	greenish white
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	winterberry	●	6'-12'	SI	S,W,M			winter emergency food	June - July	greenish white
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spicebush	●	6'-12'	SI	S,M,P				Mar. - May	yellow
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	wax myrtle	●	6'-15'	II	S				Mar. - June	yellowish green
<i>Morella pensylvanica</i>	bayberry	●	6'-15'	II	S,W				Mar. - Apr.	yellowish green
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	elderberry	●	6'-12'	SI	S,M				June - July	white
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	highbush blueberry	●	10'-13'	SI	P,S,W,M				Apr. - June	white, pink
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	arrowwood	◐	6'-12'	SI	S,M				May - June	white
Trees										
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	◐	75'-100'	SI	S,M				Mar. - Apr.	inconspicuous
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	shadbush	●	35'-50'	SI	S,M				Apr. - May	white
<i>Betula nigra</i>	river birch	○	50'-75'	SI	S				Apr. - May	dark brown
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	american holly	●	up to 60'	II, SI	S				May - June	white
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	eastern red cedar	◐	50'-75'	II	S,M				Mar. - Apr.	reddish purple
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	loblolly pine	◐	40'-90'	SI	S,M					
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	○	50'-75'	SI	S,W,M				Apr. - May	yellowish green
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	willow oak	◐	40'-60'	SI	S,W,M				Feb. - May	yellowish green
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	bald cypress	◐	75'-100'	RI, PI	S,W				Mar - Apr.	deep purple

Native Plant Attractions Key

B= Beneficial insects
 H= Hummingbirds M= Mammals
 P= Pollinators S= Songbirds W= Waterfowl

Shade Tolerance Key

○ = Full Sun ● = Full Shade
 ◐ = Partial Shade

Water Tolerance Key

SI= Season Inundation II= Irregular Inundation U= Upland
 RI= Regular Inundation PI= Permanent Inundation

What is a songbird garden and how does it work?

A songbird garden is designed to provide essential habitat elements needed by the wide variety of songbirds of the Chesapeake Bay region. Plants provide nesting locations and shelter, as well as food from their seeds, nuts, berries, and nectar. Planting a diverse selection of these perennials, shrubs, and trees help attract songbirds to your landscape year after year.

Why use native plants?

Native plants provide further benefits because they are adapted to local soil and climate conditions, create habitat for a variety of wildlife, and make up the beautiful, authentic landscape of the Chesapeake Bay region.

Constructing a songbird garden:

Many plants that attract songbirds work well in any number of residential and commercial landscapes. Select plants of various heights to provide habitat amongst the vegetation layers. Plant evergreen shrubs and trees to provide year-round cover. Eliminate the use of insecticides in your landscape. Insects are a primary food source for birds; and with their voracious appetites, birds are the best natural enemies of insect pests in the garden. Furthermore, many insects play important beneficial roles, such as pollination and predation of insect pests.

For More Information:

National Wildlife Federation
<http://www.nwf.org/backyard/>

**Brooklyn Botanical Garden:
Songbird Hedges**
http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/2001fa_songbird.html

Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/pdf/chesapeakenatives.pdf>

Wetland Planting Guide for the Northeastern United States
http://www.wetland.org/publications_home.htm

Maryland Native Plant Society Gardener's Guidelines
<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/gguides.html>



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Using Native Plants to Attract Songbirds in Your Garden



Photo by Jim Brighton, 2007