



Bringing Wildlife Home

Neighbor-friendly Wildlife Gardening



Ladybugs make good neighbors for gardeners — they consume large numbers of plant-eating insects such as aphids.

The concepts of using native plants and reducing your lawn may seem strange to some, since these practices do not produce the typical image of a suburban yard. However, following these tips may encourage your neighbors to try new gardening practices and may help you to avoid misunderstandings regarding your natural landscaping.

- Before you start your wildlife habitat project, explain to your neighbors what natural landscaping is and the aesthetic and ecological benefits it may bring to your neighborhood.
- Try completing one section of your yard at a time. Starting small gives neighbors time to get accustomed to your yard's new look.
- Add human touches to your garden. Bird baths, benches, and water features add interest and enjoyment that draw people into the natural landscape.
- Well-designed borders, paths, hedges, plant islands and fencing frame the features of the garden and provide a neat appearance that your neighbors will appreciate.
- In your garden plans, include a search for Homeowners' Association rules, community covenants or local weed ordinances that may apply to your property. For instance, many localities require that lawns be kept under a maximum height. If you find rules are out-of-date or overly restrictive, work to get them revised.

Avoid conflicts with your neighbors by explaining natural landscaping and the benefits it brings to wildlife and the neighborhood.



- Limit the number of bird feeders to only a few per acre. Rake up spilled bird seed and hulls weekly.
- Do not leave food outdoors for other animals (including pets). The native plants and water that you provide in your **Certified Wildlife Habitat™** site are sufficient food sources to support insects, birds, and other wild visitors.

Additional Information

“Weed Laws,” reprinted from *The John Marshall Law Review*, Volume 26, Summer 1993, Number 4. Copyright © 1993 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), www.epa.gov/greenacres/weedlaws/index.html.

Wild Ones is an organization that promotes native plants, natural landscaping, and sensible weed laws. Visit their website www.for-wild.org/ for additional information.



Visit www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife for more information.

Photo Credits

Front: Gulf Fritillary, H. Cheek; Indian Paintbrush, iStockphoto.com; Rufous Hummingbird, iStockphoto.com/NaturesDisplay
Bullfrog, iStockphoto.com/Steve VanHorn; Tree, iStockphoto.com/Christine Balderas; Chipmunk, iStockphoto.com/
Jill Lang; Ladybug, Christa Carignan

Back: Sunflower, Photodisc