

Resources

Web Sites

- Milton Outdoor Classrooms web site (<http://www.miltonoutdooreclassrooms.com>)
- NWF website (www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat)
- www.enature.com (native plant database by region)
- www.hort.uconn.edu/plants (plant database)
- NWF Wildlife University online courses for info on how to provide habitat (www.nwf.org/wildlifeuniversity)

Books

- *Trees and Shrubs of New England* by Marilyn Dwelley
- *Birdscaping Your Garden* by George Adams
- *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers* by William Cullina
- *Native Trees, Shrubs & Vines* by William Cullina
- *The Backyard Bird Feeder's Bible* by Sally Roth
- *Bird Gardens: Welcoming Wild Birds to Your Yard*, Stephan W. Kress (editor)
- *Attracting Birds to Your Backyard* by Sally Roth

Local Sources of Native Plants & Bird Supplies

- Ocean State Job Lot--Birdseed, peanut feeders, suet,
- Blue Hills Trailside Museum--Birdseed, birdfeeders, bird houses, field guides
- Wild Birds Unlimited, 386 Columbia Rd. (Rte 53), Hanover, (781) 826-1640--Birdseed, birdfeeders, birdbaths, etc.
- New England Wildflower Society (www.newfs.org)-- Native plants sold at Garden in the Woods, Framingham
- City Natives operated by the Boston Natural Areas Network (www.bostonnatural.org)-- Native plants sold by appointment at City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive, Mattapan Square. Contact Jeremy Dick, (617) 542-7696, for more information.

Milton Outdoor Classrooms

- Janet MacNeil (698-7013, janetmacneil@comcast.net); Mary Truslow (696-6050, mtruslow@comcast.net); Pete Jackson (696-2834, pjacks@comcast.net).

How to Create a Backyard Habitat

In cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation, Milton Outdoor Classrooms is starting a project to turn Milton into a community habitat for birds and butterflies. We invite you to join us in this important effort by creating a habitat in your backyard. The best plants for habitats are native plants (plants that are originally from this area). They require less water and maintenance than other exotic species because they are naturally adapted to our environment. So everybody wins—the birds, the butterflies, and you!

Creating a backyard habitat is easy and really fun! Here's how:

1. Make a map of your backyard, showing:

- ✓ The existing plants that might provide food (such as acorns, nuts, berries, seeds, buds, or nectar) for wildlife,
- ✓ Birdfeeders,
- ✓ Birdbaths or other water sources,
- ✓ Plants that provide shelter (such as dense shrubs, evergreens, brush piles), and
- ✓ Places for birds and wildlife to raise their young (trees, shrubs, birdhouses).

The map does not have to be fancy or extremely detailed, and is a fun way to become more familiar with your space.

2. Think about what types of birds and butterflies you want to attract to your yard. Research the types of plants and trees that will attract them (i.e., provide food, shelter, and/or places to raise young). The National Wildlife Federation's (NWF's) Backyard Habitat web site is a good place to start www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat.

- If you don't have them already, plant some of your favorite wildflowers, shrubs, and/or trees that will attract wildlife and provide food, shelter, and places to raise young.
- Make sure that your backyard has a year-round source of water. This can be as simple as the bottom of a clay pot (for the summer) and a basic heated birdbath for the frigid winter months.
- Get certified as an official NWF Backyard Habitat (see the NWF web site for the certification application) and watch the birds enjoy your efforts!

If you need assistance with any of these steps, contact the Milton Outdoor Classrooms Team (see last page). We're happy to help!

Plants for Attracting Birds & Butterflies to Backyard Habitats in Milton (Partial List)

Wildflowers

Beebalm
Black-eyed susans
Brown-eyed susans
Purple coneflower

Vines

Trumpet vine
Virginia creeper

Shrubs

Bayberry
Low bush blueberry
High bush blueberry
Mountain laurel
Sweet fern
Sweet pepperbush
Redosier dogwood
Spicebush
Viburnums

Trees

American hornbeam
American mountain ash
Common witchhazel
Eastern red cedar
Oak
Paper birch
Quaking aspen
Sassafras
Serviceberry
Shadbush
Striped maple
White pine

Birdfeeder Menu

Type of Food	Birds Attracted
Black oil sunflower seed	Cardinals, blue jays, black-capped chickadees, house finches, tufted titmice, nuthatches, woodpeckers, goldfinches, sparrows, mourning doves
Striped sunflower seed	Cardinals, blue jays, black-capped chickadees, house finches, tufted titmice, nuthatches, woodpeckers, sparrows, mourning doves
Niger seed (sometimes called thistle seed)	Goldfinches, mourning doves, sparrows, house finches
Cracked corn	Cardinals, blue jays, sparrows, blackbirds, mourning doves, starlings, robins
Peanuts (in or out of the shell)	Woodpeckers, black-capped chickadees, blue jays, cardinals, tufted titmice, nuthatches
Suet	Woodpeckers, black-capped chickadees, flickers, tufted titmice, nuthatches
Fruit	Orioles, robins, starlings, woodpeckers, house finches, sparrows
Nectar	Hummingbirds, orioles

