



Create a Wildlife Container Garden

Attracting wildlife to your outdoor living space is fun and helps to restore natural habitats. Birds, butterflies, and all other wildlife simply need food, water, and safety.

Therefore, you will want to plant flowers and plants that provide berries, seeds, and nectar; nesting areas safe from predators; and fresh water for drinking and bathing. The part that may surprise you is that you can achieve all of this with container gardens! You can create a wildlife oasis on your patio, deck, or balcony, just as you would if you had a full-size garden. Follow these easy steps to creating your own container wildlife garden.

1. Supply Food:

- Grow sun-loving flowers; especially perennials and natives in containers. Choose brightly colored flowers like the purple coneflower (*echinacea purpurea*), which produces enough seeds to feed birds well into the winter. Ask us which choices will perform best in containers, while still attracting the wildlife you want.
- Butterflies, hummingbirds, and orioles love flowers with abundant sweet nectar (e.g., the bleeding heart, or *dicentra eximia*; honeysuckle vines, or *lonicera*, both perennials).
- Annuals provide blooms all summer long, and it's good to provide the diversity you can only get from annuals in addition to your perennials.
- Supplement the food provided by your container gardens with a birdfeeder and a supply of bird seed mix to attract a variety of birds; a hummingbird feeder; or a finch feeder with niger thistle seeds. These last two feeders are great because the squirrels can't get into them. Ask us which feeders are best at attracting the birds you want to see in your garden.

2. Provide fresh water:

- Supply a birdbath, a fountain; or construct your own container water garden. (Come into the nursery & we'll show you how!)
- Plant vegetation around or near the source of water to encourage the birds and butterflies near it.
- Make sure the bath is placed high enough to be out of reach of cats and other predators.
- Provide a perch, level rim, or rocks placed in the container so that your birds can walk into the water to safely bathe or sit and dip their beaks into it.

3. Provide a Home:

- Attracting birds year round means providing safe hiding places for homes. You will need to plant some flowering shrubs, evergreens, or even a small fruit tree. With our amazing assortment of containers and pottery, you won't have any trouble finding an appropriate and attractive combination
- Supplement your "nesting shrubs" with birdhouses. Again, ask us which ones are best suited for the types of birds you want in your garden.