

Mecklenburg Audubon Society



Backyard Notes:

Plants for Food and Cover

January is the time to start thinking about what you will plant in your backyard. There are a lot of plants you can use to entice wildlife. Here is a breviated version of Will Cook's Great Plants for Attracting Birds in Central North Carolina.

*Exceptional plants.

Evergreen trees and shrubs

Atlantic White-Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)

Holly (*Ilex*)

Yaupon (*I. vomitoria*)

Japanese Holly (*I. crenata*)

American Holly (*I. Opaca*)

Eastern Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

*Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry (*Morella (Myrica) cerifera*)

Pine (*Pinus* spp.)

Loblolly Pine (*P. taeda*)

Longleaf Pine (*P. palustris*)

Carolina Laurel cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*)



American Holly

Deciduous trees and shrubs

Maples (*Acer*)

Native Red Maple (*A. rubrum*)

Southern Sugar Maple (*A. barbatum*)

Chalk Maple (*A. leucoderme*)

Avoid the messy Silver Maple (*A. saccharinum*)

River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

Hackberry, Sugarberry (*Celtis* spp.)

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Holly (*Ilex* spp.)

Possumhaw (*I. decidua*)

Winterberry (*I. verticillata*)

Mountain Winterberry (*I. montana*)

Sweetgum. (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

*Apple, Crabapple. (*Malus* spp.)

Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)

*Sourwood. (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Oak (*Quercus* spp.)

White Oak (*Q. alba*)

Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*)

Avoid the exotic Sawtooth Oak (*Q. acutissima*)

Blueberry. (*Vaccinium* spp.)

Viburnum. (*Viburnum* spp.)

Downy Arrowwood (*V. rafinesquianum*)

Rusty Blackhaw (*V. rufidulum*)



Sourwood



Purple Cone Flower



Trumpet Vine



Russian Olive

Woody Vines

Carolina Yellow-Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)
Virginia-Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Herbaceous Plants

Coreopsis, Tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp.)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea* spp.)
Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Hummingbird Nectar Plants

Trees

Red Buckeye. (*Aesculus pavia*)

Woody Vines

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)
Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
*Trumpet/Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Shrubs

*Gregg's Sage, Texas Sage, Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*)
Small-leaved Sage, Baby Sage (*Salvia microphylla*)
Mountain Sage (*Salvia reglia*)

Herbaceous Plants

Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Jewelweed, Spotted Touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*)
Cypressvine. (*Ipomoea quamoclit*)
Standing-Cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*)
*Cardinal-Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Scarlet Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)
Beard-tongue (*Penstemon* spp.)
Scarlet Sage, Tropical Sage, Blood Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
Galeana Red Sage (*Salvia darcyi*)
*Pineapple Sage (*Salvia elegans*)
*Guarani Sage, Blue Brazilian Sage, Anise(-scented) Sage (*Salvia guaranitica*)
Cedar Sage (*Salvia roemeriana*)
Red Salvia, Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens* (modern cultivars))
Van Houtte's Sage. (*Salvia splendens* 'vanhouttei')

Cover/Food Plants to AVOID

Mimosa Tree, Silk tree (*Albizia julibrissin*)
Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
Autumn-Olive (*Elaeagnus* spp.)
Wintercreeper, Climbing Euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*)
Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
Sericea, Chinese Bush-Clover (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
Redtips (*Photinia* spp.)