



Audubon

Patterson Park
Audubon Center

Bird-Friendly Gardening Workshop

Questions to Ask Yourself Before Choosing Plants

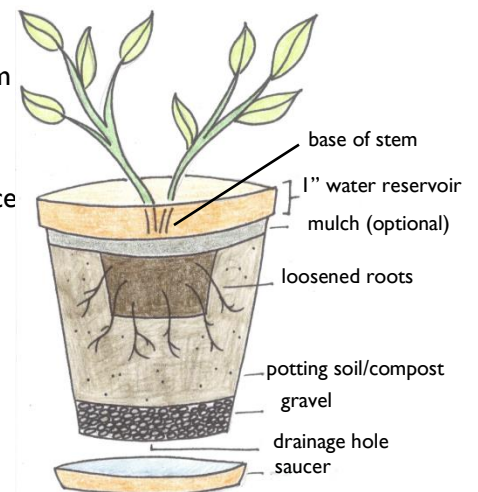
- Where will the plant be placed? What conditions occur in that spot? _____
- Is there shade for part or all of the day? Harsh mid-day sun or angled morning/afternoon sun? Deep or dappled shade? _____
- How much space is there? Height? Width? _____
- Will the container be subject to drying winds? _____
- Will it remain in the same place year round? If so, how will the seasons affect it? _____
- Will it get more or less sun in the winter vs. summer? _____
- Is it exposed or protected from freezing? _____
- Will people walking by damage brittle stems or be injured by sharp spines? _____
- How wet is the area? Realistically, how often will the plants get watered? _____
- What specific wildlife do I want to attract? _____

Other Considerations

- Clay/porous containers dry more quickly than plastic/watertight ones, and are more susceptible to freezing. Get the best pot for your budget. Do not overwater, especially in winter.
- Most plants will rot without good drainage – make sure pot has a hole in the bottom.
- Consider the full-grown size of the plant. You may need to transplant as it grows.
- Choose a variety of colors, textures, forms, heights, and evergreen/deciduous/herbaceous.
- Plan for 3 seasons of bloom and 4 seasons of wildlife food sources – berries, seed heads, nectar.

Container Assembly

- Start with a layer of gravel or other porous material in the bottom of the container.
- Add potting mix, pressing down to eliminate air pockets.
- Arrange plants as you get close to the top, allowing adequate space for growth. Be sure to loosen the root ball.
- Plant's base (where roots meet stem) should be 1" from rim of container to create a water reservoir.
*Never bury the plant's stem or leave the roots exposed!
- Mulch is optional. Best to fill the pot with plants!
- Water thoroughly – allow first dose to soak in, then water again.



Additional Resources

Books

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants by Douglas W. Tallamy
The Living Landscape: Designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden by Douglas W. Tallamy and Rick Darke
Nature's Best Hope: A new approach to conservation that starts in your yard by Douglas W. Tallamy
Planting in a Post-Wild World by Claudia West and Thomas Rainer
Garden Revolution: How our landscapes can be a source of environmental change by Larry Weaner
Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv

Find a list of more helpful books here:

<http://pa.audubon.org/good-books-and-booklets>

Online Resources

Patterson Park Audubon Bird-Friendly Communities

<http://patterson.audubon.org/programs/bird-friendly-communities>

National Audubon Society Bird-Friendly Communities

www.audubon.org/conservation/bird-friendly-communities

National Audubon Society Plants for Birds Database

www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

www.wildflower.org

Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS)

www.mdflora.org