Top 10 Trees for Your Wildlife Garden

1. Oak · *Quercus* · 🦋 🐦 🟡
Why: Host plant for 532 species of caterpillars (Lepidoptera); acorns are a resource for many animals including jays, woodpeckers, and warblers.
Native examples: white, black, willow, swamp white, pin, red, scarlet

2. Cherry · *Prunus* · 🦋 🐦
Why: Host plant for 456 Lepidopterans; cherries are favorite food source for 41 bird species including orioles, cedar waxwings, woodpeckers, thrushes.
Native examples: black, pin, chokecherry, also peach, plum, almond

3. Willow · *Salix* · 🦋
Why: These lovely, water-loving trees support 455 species of Lepidoptera including mourning cloak, red-spotted purple, and viceroy caterpillars.
Native examples: white, black

4. Birch · *Betula* · 🦋 🐦 🟡
Why: Seeds and buds highly prized by birds like American goldfinches, nuthatches, and orioles; hosts 411 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.
Native examples: gray, river, yellow, sweet, paper

5. Aspen · *Populus* · 🦋
Why: Eastern tiger swallowtails, twinspot sphinx moths, and 365 other Lepidopterans use this tree with fluttering gold leaves in fall (*P. tremuloides*).
Native examples: quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, eastern cottonwood

6. Apple · *Malus* · 🦋 🐦 🟡
Why: Hosts 308 Lepidopterans; fruits and other plant parts are eaten by 28 bird species including hummingbirds, orioles, and woodpeckers.
Native examples: sweet (American), Southern (coastal plain)

7. Maple · *Acer* · 🦋 🟡
Why: Plant host for 297 Lepidopteran species including Io and Luna moths; seeds are eaten by cardinals, evening grosbeaks; goldfinches use for nesting.
Native examples: red, sugar, silver

8. Elm · *Ulmus* · 🦋 🟡
Why: Supports 215 Lepidopteran species; seeds, buds, and flowers are eaten by birds and mammals; sought out by cavity nesters such as woodpeckers.
Native examples: American *ask for cultivar resistant to Dutch Elm Disease

9. Pine · *Pinus* · 🦋 🐦
Why: Winter cover, nesting sites, and food for 43 bird species including nuthatches, warblers, towhees, juncos, and woodpeckers; 201 Lep. species.
Native examples: Eastern white, pitch, red

10. Holly · *Ilex* · 🐦
Why: Provides food and cover in winter for 36 bird species including thrushes, brown thrasher, white-eyed vireo, and woodpeckers.
Native examples: American, winterberry, inkberry

Top 10 Shrubs for Your Wildlife Garden

1. Blueberry, cranberry · *Vaccinium* · 🦋 🐦
Why: Host plant for 294 species of caterpillars (Lepidoptera) including Spring Azure and Striped Hairstreak; relished by songbirds; fall color.
Native examples: highbush blueberry, lowbush blueberry, cranberry

2. Hawthorn · *Crataegus* · 🦋 🟡
Why: This spiny shrub, attracts 168 Lepidopteran species including red-spotted purple butterflies and has white flowers and red berries to boot.
Native examples: Washington, green

3. Serviceberry · *Amelanchier* · 🦋 🐦 🟡
Why: High bird value in the fruit as well as host for 124 Leps; feeds 36 bird species including Swainson's thrush, brown thrasher and Northern flicker.
Native examples: shadbush (juneberry), smooth, downy

4. Dogwood · *Cornus* · 🦋 🐦 🟡
Why: Flowering tree and multi-stemmed shrubs provide cover, food, and nesting sites for 36 bird species like purple finches and cedar waxwings.
Native examples: red-osier, alternate-leaved, gray, silky, flowering

5. Bayberry, myrtle · *Myrica* · 🦋 🐦
Why: High fat content in berries provide energy for migrating birds when they need it the most; plant host for 108 species of moths and butterflies.
Native examples: wax myrtle, northern bayberry

6. Viburnum · *Viburnum* · 🦋 🐦 🟡
Why: Fruit-bearing shrub; insect host plant; great cover plant; used by at least 24 bird species including cedar waxwings, thrushes, and flycatchers.
Native examples: mapleleaf, southern arrowwood, blackhaw

7. Witchhazel · *Hamamelis* · 🦋
Why: Late-flowering shrub feeds 63 species of Lepidopterans; also consider its smaller relative, witchalder (*Fothergilla*) with gorgeous fall color.
Native examples: witchhazel, dwarf witchalder, mountain witchalder

8. Rhododendron · *Rhododendron* · 🦋
Why: Supports 51 Lepidopteran species; bird nesting sites; among our most beautiful native shrubs with orange, fuchsia, and white blooms in spring.
Native examples: smooth azalea, great laurel, early azalea, pink azalea

9. Elderberry · *Sambucus* · 🐦
Why: Fruit eaten by many birds, at least 48 species including thrushes, flycatchers, woodpeckers, and grosbeaks; excellent cover plant for birds.
Native examples: American black, red

10. Honeysuckle · *Lonicera* · 🐦
Why: This vine is an excellent food source for hummingbirds and 37 butterfly species; will flower repeatedly for three seasons; beware invasives.
Native examples: trumpet/coral

🦋 best for bugs 🐦 best for birds 🟡 Baltimore City-approved street tree

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Container Species for Your Wildlife Garden

Goldenrod · *Solidago* · 🦋 ✳ 🐦 ☀☀☀

Black-eyed Susan · *Rudbeckia* · 🐦 ☀☀

Coneflower · *Echinacea* · 🐦 ☀☀

Beebalm/Bergamot · *Monarda* · ✳ ☀☀

Creeping phlox · *Phlox stolonifera* · 🦋 ☀☀

White wood aster · *Eurybia divaricata* · ☀☀

Wild geranium · *Geranium maculatum* · 🐦 ☀☀

Spicebush · *Lindera benzoin* · 🦋 🐦 ☀☀
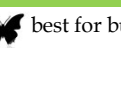
Coral honeysuckle · *Lonicera sempervirens* · ✳ 🐦 ☀☀

Ninebark · *Physocarpus opulifolius* · 🐦 ☀☀

Blueberry · *Vaccinium* · 🦋 🐦 ☀☀

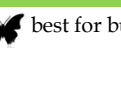Black chokeberry · *Photinia melanocarpa* · 🐦 ☀☀

American beautyberry · *Callicarpa americana* · 🐦 ☀☀

Pennsylvania sedge · *Carex pensylvanica* · 🐦 ☀☀

Northern lady fern · *Athyrium filix-femina* · ☀☀

🦋 best for bugs   ✳ best for pollinators   🐦 best for birds   ☀☀☀ optimal sun