Top 10 Trees for Your Wildlife Garden

**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
*Winter cover, nesting sites, and food for 43 bird species including hummingbirds, orioles, and woodpeckers.*
*Supports 215 Lepidopteran species; seeds, buds, and flowers are eaten by many animals including jays, woodpeckers, and warblers.*

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

**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*: quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, eastern cottonwood
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**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*: gray, river, yellow, sweet, paper

**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)

**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

**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*

**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

**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

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**Best bets for bugs**

**Best bet for birds**

**Baltimore City-approved street tree**
Top 10 Shrubs for Your Wildlife Garden

**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

**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

**Serviceberry** - *Amelanchier* •
*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

**Dogwood** - *Cornus* •
*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, blackhay

**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

**Viburnum** - *Viburnum* •
*Why:* Fruit-feeding shrub feeds 63 species of Lepidopterans; also consider its smaller relative, witchalder (*Fothergilla*) with gorgeous fall color.
*Native examples:* witchhazel, dwarf witchalder, mountain witchalder

**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

**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

**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

**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

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*Best bet for bugs*

*Best bet for birds*

*Baltimore City-approved street tree*
Top 10 Herbaceous Plants for Your Wildlife Garden

Goldenrod - *Solidago* · 1
Why: There are 125 species of goldenrod native to the US, supporting 115 species of butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) as well as spiders and birds.
Native examples: Canada, Atlantic, white, wreath, showy, anisescented

Aster - *Aster* · 2
Why: Huge family of flowers which support 109 Lepidopteran species; provide abundant pollen for bees and butterflies with range of bloom periods.
Native examples: blue wood, big leaf, heath, New England, zigzag

Sunflower - *Helianthus* · 3
Why: Provide lots of nectar and pollen, and the seeds are eaten by many birds including finches, sparrows, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, cardinals.
Native examples: common, thinleaf, woodland, hairy, cheerful, prairie

Joe-pye weed - *Eupatorium* · 4
Why: Best native alternative to invasive Butterfly Bush; produces tons of pollen and nectar for butterflies while feeding 41 caterpillar species as well.
Native examples: hollow, sweet, three-nerved

Sedges - *Carex* · 5
Why: Many native sedges are endangered; support 36 species of Lepidopterans; often neglected but essential element for wildlife in our gardens.
Native examples: thicket, broadwing, whitetinge, eastern narrowleaf

Violets - *Viola* · 6
Why: Violets are host plants for a group of endangered butterflies, the Fritillaries; choose several species for early spring color and wildlife habitat.
Native examples: common blue, arrowleaf, roundleaf yellow, early blue

Switch grass - *Panicum* · 7
Why: Leaves and other plant parts provide food for 25 species of moths and butterflies; the perfect groundcover to prevent weeds and provide shelter.
Native examples: switch grass, Shenandoah

Geranium - *Geranium* · 8
Why: This shade-loving perennial is a favorite of pollinators including specialist bees, and is fed on by the Bridled Arches moth and 23 other species.
Native examples: wild geranium

Milkweed - *Asclepias* · 9
Why: It's the specialized food of the threatened Monarch butterfly as well as 11 other species of butterflies and moths, and many other pollinators.
Native examples: common, swamp, butterfly weed

Black/brown-eyed Susan, coneflower - *Rudbeckia* · 10
Why: Maryland's state flower is a bird favorite, providing seeds for goldfinches, blue jays, and cardinals, as well as nectar for bees and butterflies.
Native examples: blackeyed Susan, browneyed Susan, cutleaf coneflower

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best bet for bugs  best bet for birds
Container Species for Your Wildlife Garden

Goldenrod • *Solidago* • 🦋 Buzz Buzz

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* • 🦋

*Audubon*

Best bet for bugs • Best bet for pollinators • Best bet for birds • Optimal sun