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: quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, eastern cottonwood

5. Aspen - Populus
   - Why: Eastern tiger swallowtails, twinspot sphinx moths, and 365 other Lepidoptera use this tree with fluttering gold leaves in fall (P. tremuloides).
   - Native examples: gray, river, yellow, sweet, paper

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 for host as 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 Lepidoptera; 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
Top 10 Herbaceous Plants for Your Wildlife Garden

1. **Goldenrod • Solidago** 🦋
   **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

2. **Aster • Aster** 🦋
   **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

3. **Sunflower • Helianthus** 🦋
   **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

4. **Joe-pye weed • Eupatorium** 🦋
   **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

5. **Sedges • Carex** 🦋
   **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

6. **Violets • Viola** 🦋
   **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

7. **Switch grass • Panicum** 🦋
   **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

8. **Geranium • Geranium** 🦋
   **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

9. **Milkwweed • Asclepias** 🦋
   **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

10. **Black/brown-eyed Susan, coneflower • Rudbeckia** 🦋
    **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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Container Species for Your Wildlife Garden

- **Goldenrod • Solidago** 🦋
- **Black-eyed Susan • Rudbeckia** 🦋
- **Coneflower • Echinacea** 🦋
- **Beebalm/Bergamot • Monarda** 🦋
- **Creeping phlox • Phlox stolonifera** 🦋
- **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** 🦋

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Best bet for bugs 🦋 Best bet for pollinators 🦋 Best bet for birds 🦋 Optimal sun 🎈