Bird-Friendly Garden Designs

Sunny Planter Box

Ideal design for individuals with limited space or no yard
This landscape design is suited for full sun and dry conditions in prairie and foothills ecoregions. Tallest plants are in the center, with decreasing height to the edge.

One of the big threats birds face is habitat loss. Planting native plants is a simple but powerful way to help birds. Native gardens not only provide food and shelter for, they also conserve water and eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Audubon Rockies’s Habitat Hero program provides people, businesses, and cities with the resources to create bird habitat in their own communities.

Learn how you can plant a better world for birds and people at rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero.

**PLANTS**

**Fireweed** *(Chamerion angustifolium)*

**May attract** long-tongued and short-tongued bees, honey bees, several fly species, beetles, butterflies, hummingbirds, and caterpillars.

**Black-eyed Susan** *(Rudbeckia hirta)*

**May attract** nuthatches, finches, Black-capped chickadees, long-tongued and short-tongued bees, honey bees, predatory wasps, butterflies, skippers, moths, flies, beetles, and caterpillars.

**Bee Balm** *(Monarda spp.)*

**May attract** hummingbirds, waxwings, chickadees, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, mockingbirds, nuthatches, orioles, wrens, cardinals, vireos, sparrows, moths, butterflies, and long-tongued bees.

**Wild Colorado For O’clock** *(Mirabilis multiflora)*

**May attract** primarily hawkmoths, as well as other nocturnal insects, bees, hummingbirds, and quail.

**HOW TO**

**Easy as 1, 2, 3, BEE!**

1. **PLANT**
   - Place seeds one inch below nutrient rich, moist soil in formation as shown in map on back of brochure. For Zone 5, plant the seeds when the soil temperature reaches 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit (usually early May).

2. **FEED**
   - Be sure the planter is exposed to full or partial sunlight most of the day.
   - Keep soil moist until germination (usually within 10 days of planting seeds). Water only when soil looks dry. Watering is minimal after germination, do not overwater.
   - Fertilizer is not necessary as these plants thrive in this eco-region.

3. **MAINTAIN**
   - Fireweed and Colorado For O’clock are rapid growing wildflowers so trimming may be necessary as to not overtake planter box.
   - Allow Colorado For O’clock to drape over outside of planter box.
   - Maintenance should be minimal.

4. **BEE**
   - Sit back and enjoy watching birds, pollinators, and other wildlife take advantage of your bright blooms.
   - Pat yourself on the back for being an environmentally aware and sustainable leader in your community.

All information on pollinators and birds is from USDA and National Audubon Society.