Shady Planter Box

Ideal design for individuals with limited space or no yard

Bird-Friendly Garden Designs

Shady Planter Box

Wand Panic Grass
Silky Phacelia
Sticky Purple Geranium
Blue Columbine

36 in
15 in
This landscape design is suited for shady and dry conditions in prairie and foothills ecoregions. Tallest plants are in the center with decreasing height to the edge.

One of the biggest 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**

**Silky Phacelia (Phacelia sericea)**
May attract native bees, solitary bees, bumblebees, and butterflies

**Blue Columbine (Aquilegia caerulea)**
May attract hummingbirds, mockingbirds, orioles, sparrows, vireos, waxwings, warblers, hawkmoths, native bees, and bumblebees

**Sticky Purple Geranium (Geranium viscosissimum)**
May attract flies, butterflies, and native bees

**Wand Panic Grass (Panicum virgatum)**
May attract jays, nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, sparrows, cardinals, and finches

**HOW TO**

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

1. **PLANT**
   - Scatter seeds over nutrient rich soil in formation shown on the planter map on the back of the brochure. For Zone 5, plant the seeds in late winter/early spring and lightly cover with ¼ inch of soil/sand mixture.
   - Columbine are known to be more successful from seed if sown and germinated indoors prior to planting.

2. **FEED**
   - Be sure the planter is in full or partial shade most of the day.
   - Keep soil moist until germination (usually within 5-8 weeks of planting seeds but may take longer). Watering is minimal after germination—once a week.
   - Fertilizer is not necessary as these plants thrive in this eco-region.

3. **MAINTAIN**
   - Columbine sometimes do not bloom the same season they are planted, don’t let it get you down!
   - Allow purple geranium 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.