

Plants for Songbirds



DESIGN GUIDELINES

1. Mimic nature in species selection and arrangement. Native plants that have co-evolved with native birds are more likely to provide nutrition for the birds when it is needed. Arrangement of plants should mimic natural patterns - these layers of plant growth are used for a multitude of purposes.
2. Create both variety and same-species clumps in the garden. Different birds require different food in different seasons. Therefore, it is important to have enough variety in the garden to sustain birds year-round and maintain some masses of high fruit-producing species to provide very visible, massed displays for recognition.
3. Leave nature alone. Litter, old branches or tree snags provide perches, nesting cavities, and insects for food. Unraked areas contribute litter that harbors food for ground-feeding birds such as thrashers. On the other hand, maintaining some open areas is important for dust baths.
4. Avoid use of exotic plants. Exotic trees and shrubs should be avoided when possible due to their potential to spread into native habitats. Minimize turf areas-- they provide little habitat or food for birds and herbicides and fertilizers may be toxic.
5. Provide water. A small, circulating water source is preferred because traditional bird baths can spread disease.



Genus Species	Common Name	Plant Type	Use
Acacia greggii	Catclaw Acacia	Tree Shrub	Food Cover
Acacia constricta	Whitethorn Acacia	Tree Shrub	Food Cover
Atriplex lentiformis	Quailbush	Shrub	Food Cover
Baileya multiradiata	Desert Marigold	Forb	Food
Carnegia gigantea	Saguara	Cactus	Food Shelter
Celtis pallida	Desert Hackberry	Shrub	Food Cover

PLANTS FOR SONGBIRD GARDENS Species Common Name Plant type Use Acacia greggii catclaw acacia tree

<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	Western Hackberry	Tree	Food Shelter
<i>Cercidium floridum</i>	Blue Palo Verde	Tree	Food
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert Willow	Tree	Food
<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	Brittlebush	Shrub	Food
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>	Arizona Ash	Tree	Food Shelter
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote	Shrub	Cover
<i>Lycium species</i>	Wolfberry	Shrub	Food Cover
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass	Grass	Food
<i>Opuntia spinosior</i>	Cane Cholla	Cactus	Shelter
<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	Velvet Mesquite	Tree	Food Shelter
<i>Vitis arizonica</i>	Arizona Grape	Vine	Food