

GRASSES

Big & Little Bluestem

(*Andropogon gerardii* & *Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Two of the most iconic and important prairie grasses. Both provide important cover, food, and nesting materials for birds and other wildlife, especially winter shelter.



Side-oats & Blue Grama

(*Bouteloua curtipendula* & *gracilis*)

Lovely warm season grasses with unique blooms & structures. Both are medium height grasses from 2-4 feet and great to provide structure, food, & habitat.



Switchgrass

(*Panicum virgatum*)

This warm season bunch grass looks amazing mixed in with native flowers and shrubs, providing structure, seeds, and habitat for birds and other wildlife.



Prairie Dropseed

(*Sporobolus heterolepis*)

This slender-stemmed warm season grass is an elegant add to any yard or garden, providing great ground cover, structure, and habitat for sparrows, insects, & more.



Indiangrass

(*Sorghastrum nutans*)

An iconic grass of Nebraska's tallgrass prairie, Indiangrass grows straight and tall, up to 7 or 8 feet, with attractive inflorescence in August and September for fall color.



TREES

American Elm

(*Ulmus americana*)

A favorite nesting tree for Baltimore Orioles and Chickadees, this tree may be hard to find due to Dutch elm disease. Look for the Hastings American Elm.



Bur Oak

(*Quercus macrocarpa*)

One of the only true Nebraska native trees, beautiful Bur Oak's provide acorns, nesting sites, and also are host to lots of butterfly & moth caterpillars.



Common Hackberry

(*Celtis occidentalis*)

Famous for its very rough and deeply grooved bark, Hackberry trees are excellent pollinator trees and provide nesting habitat and food sources for birds.



Black Cherry

(*Prunus serotina*)

A prized tree as a larval host to many pollinators and a great source of mid-summer / early fall berries for birds before migration.



Dwarf Chinkapin Oak

(*Quercus prinoides*)

This tree is a favorite of Blue Jays for its delicious acorns. Great for nesting habitat, it is also a host to several pollinator caterpillars and provides nice shade.



NATIVE PLANTS FOR BIRDS



Native plants important for birds, pollinators, and people

Created in partnership between,



Spring Creek Prairie
Audubon Center



Plants for Birds, Bugs, & People!

Native plants and the habitat they provide are extremely important to birds and other wildlife. One of the biggest threats birds face is habitat loss. Planting native plants is a simple but powerful way to help birds, pollinators, and people. Native gardens not only provide food and shelter, they also can conserve water, eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and reduce pollution and cost.

Audubon Nebraska's Plants for Birds program provides people, businesses, and cities with the resources to create bird and pollinator habitat in their own communities.



Learn how you can plant a better world for birds and people at audubon.org/native-plants

Support native plants and sustainable gardening by learning more at audubon.org/plantsforbirds

Support local Audubon efforts to spread the word about native plant use by donating to Wachiska Audubon Society or Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center today!

*photos: Audubon and Noah Johnson

FORBS

Wild Bergamot/Bee Balm

(*Monarda fistulosa*)

A delight for bumblebees and other native bees, this light lavender blooming plant is a favorite of bees and humans alike. And the insects it attracts thus attracts birds.



Coneflowers

(*Echinacea* spp. & *Ratibida* spp.)

Nebraska prairies are filled with colorful coneflowers – from purple & pale to gray-headed and narrow-leaved. All are great pollinator plants, plus, a favorite of goldfinches.



Milkweeds

(*Asclepias* spp.)

Well known as the larval host for Monarch butterflies, native milkweeds (Common, Swamp, Whorled, Butterfly, etc.) are also home to beetles, insects, and more. And smell amazing!



Sunflowers

(*Helianthus* spp.)

Nebraska has many native sunflower species that provide late summer color, nectar for pollinators, and seed sources for birds in the fall and winter.



Asters

(*Symphyotrichum* spp.)

A fall burst of pinks and purples is provided by several of the native Asters like silky or New England Asters. Pollinators love them for final meals before the fall freeze.



SHRUBS

Gooseberry & Currants

(*Ribes missouriense* & *aureum*)

Colorful blooms, great nesting habitat, and delicious berries for migrating birds, these scrubby shrubs are excellent along fence lines and yard edges.



Buttonbush

(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

One of the best pollinator & bee bushes around, buttonbush has unique circular blooms. Preferring moist soil, these shrubs can grow large to provide nesting habitat for cardinals.



American Plum

(*Prunus Americana*)

An early spring burst of color and scent, plum thickets can spread, but kept trimmed, provide excellent habitat for thrashers, catbirds, and towhees.



Elderberry

(*Sambucus canadensis*)

A favorite berry source for robins and waxwings, the tiny white flowers bloom in early summer. The shrub structure is also great nesting for many birds.



Serviceberry/Saskatoon

(*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

An important food source to Native Americans as well as native birds & pollinators, this shrub also can provide a mid-story area of habitat for kingbirds and cardinals.

