

The Impact of Native Plants

Plants for Birds, Bugs, and People!



American Goldfinch.
Photo: Will Stuart/Audubon



Black-capped Chickadee.
Photo: Mick Thompson/Audubon

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.

Ways You Can Help

- Advocate for more native plants on the landscape
 - Use a proclamation to educate and raise public awareness
 - Use a resolution to secure broader community and/or legislative support
- Ask your local nurseries to sell more native plants
- Grow bird-friendly native plants in your landscape whether it is a window box, yard, or large acreage

557

Number of butterflies & moths native oak trees support. Non-native ginkgo trees host only five.

1,200

U.S. crops that depend on pollinators to grow. Native plants are essential for pollinators like birds, bees, butterflies, and bats.

96

Percentage of land birds that feed insects to chicks. Native plants are nature's bounty.

80 million

Number of pounds of pesticides homeowners apply to the 40 million acres of lawns in the U.S. each year.

Native plants, on the other hand, support a vibrant balance of predator and prey insects and thrive without pesticides.

800 million

Estimated number of gallons of gas Americans burn in lawn mowers annually. This produces significant amounts of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases that drive climate change.