
YOUR GARDEN

Make A Home For Wildlife In Your Backyard

(NAPSA)—If the idea of gardening has taken root for you, you're not alone. According to the National Gardening Association, 45 percent of Americans garden in their yards and 40 percent provide food for wild birds.



Among the reasons Americans love to garden is that it's a great way to experience the natural world on a daily basis and to connect with Mother Nature. It's also a wonderful way to provide a wildlife habitat. This means food, water, cover, and places where wildlife can raise their young. The result? You can enjoy wonderful wildlife experiences every day, right in your own backyard.

The first step is to assess your garden to determine what habitat you may already be providing. Do you have flowers where graceful butterflies and dainty hummingbirds can find nectar? Is there a clean water source for the neighborhood frogs? What about dense shrubbery where the songbirds can find cover from predators, build their nests, and serenade you each morning?

Building a backyard habitat is not hard. To help, experts at the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ program have created a Backyard Wildlife Habitat planning guide. The guide is available for \$14.95 by calling (716) 461-3092 or go to www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat.