

# *Backyard Habitat Guide*

HOW TO CREATE A GARDEN THAT IS  
ABUNDANT IN LIFE AND BEAUTY



MONROVIA®

*Grow Beautifully*



EVOLUTION™ YELLOW FALLS CONEFLOWER AND AGAPANTHUS

**AS GARDENERS, WE ARE ON A CONSTANT SEARCH** for abundance. Abundant blooms, creativity, beauty, life, joy. Our gardens are where we savor the abundance that nature offers, and our special place in it. Once we start to see our outdoor spaces as part of a fully connected ecosystem, a new world of discovery and magic is open to us.

When creating habitat gardens, there's a lot of debate about native vs. non-native plants, and whether cultivars are also good choices. While native plants support a diverse insect population in your local ecosystem, there are also truly wonderful pollen- and nectar-rich non-native species and cultivars that also support pollinators and birds. Planting a diverse selection that works best for you and your space is the best approach.

The Backyard Habitat Guide is designed to support you as you use your garden to create an abundant space of beauty – one that is interactive, vibrant, and full of life. Inside, you'll find three different habitat garden sections, including a hummingbird garden, a backyard birding garden, and a bee and butterfly garden. Each section provides an illustrated landscape design by Lisa Nunamaker of Paper Garden Workshop, a plant list, and expert tips for building a healthy habitat.



**ON THE COVERS**

**FRONT:** Coneflowers, agastache, and coreopsis mingle in a lush pollinator-friendly landscape

**BACK:** Apex™ Blue Meadow Sage

**SPECIAL THANKS**

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and The Nature Conservancy

Photography by Doreen Wynja

Landscape plans and illustrations by Lisa Nunamaker of Paper Garden Workshop

# *Hummingbird Garden*

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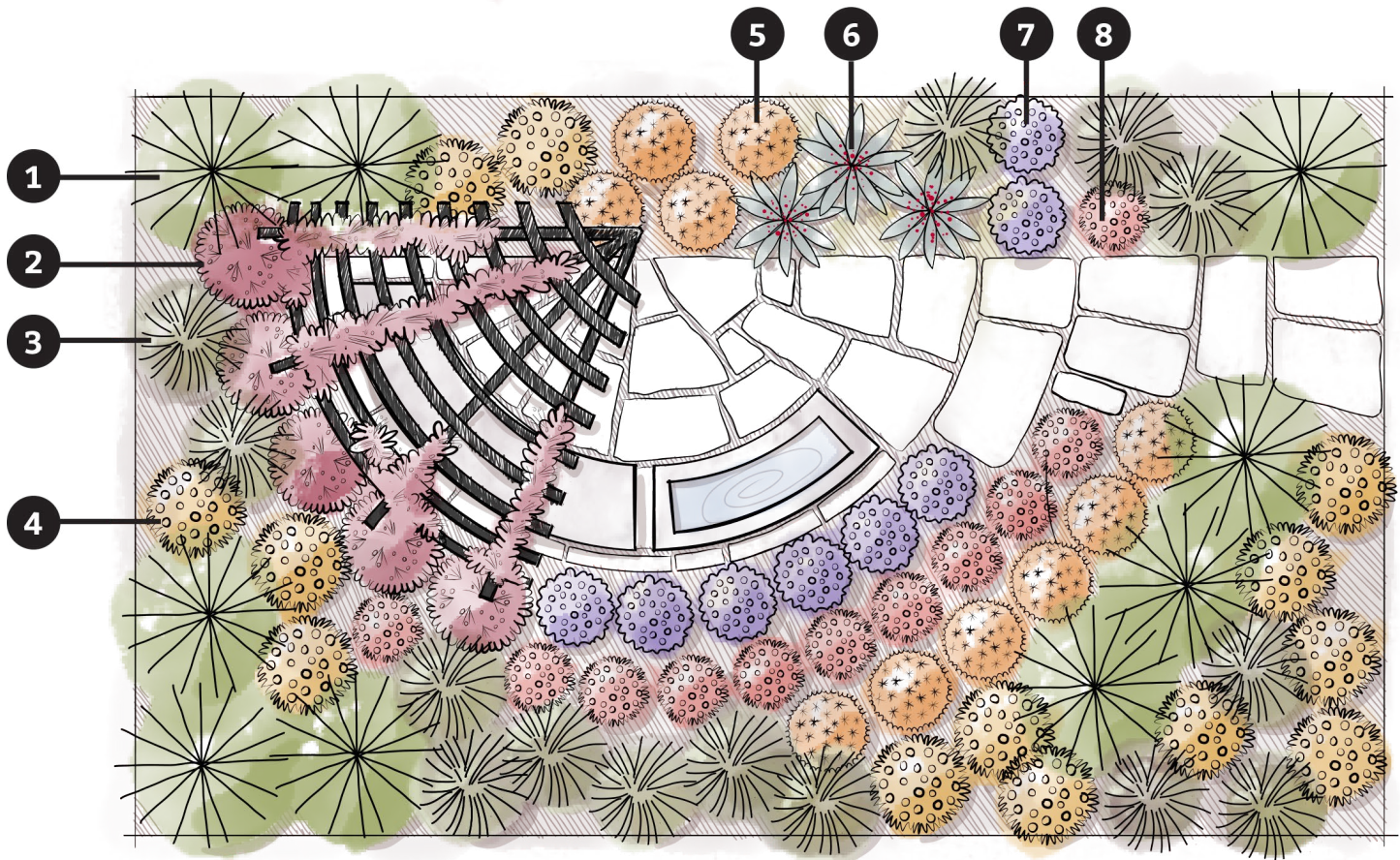
“Small insects are a lesser known but essential part of the hummingbird diet... encouraging insects in your yard means you’ll have spiders – and hummingbirds make their beautiful tiny nests from spider silk!”

DEBORAH BARBER, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MARYLAND/D.C

**WATCHING HUMMINGBIRDS ZOOM THROUGH THE AIR**, hover and flit around the garden is so delightful, it’s no wonder so many of us want to see more visiting our gardens. The key to a lively hummingbird garden is selecting the appropriate flowers for them to feast upon, and then planting a lot of them. Hummingbirds love bright, tubular flowers; their long tongues allow them to reach the nectar inside. Nectar isn’t the only thing that keeps hummingbirds happy – they also eat small insects.



# Hummingbird Garden Landscape Plan



1. MY FAIR MAIDEN™ MAIDEN GRASS 2. MAJOR WHEELER CORAL HONEYSUCKLE 3. BLUE HEAVEN LITTLE BLUESTEM 4. KUDOS GOLD DWARF AGASTACHE  
5. MANGO POPSICLE DWARF POKER 6. BRAKELIGHTS® RED YUCCA 7. APEX™ BLUE MEADOW SAGE 8. KUDOS CORAL DWARF AGASTACHE



**1**  
**My Fair Maiden™ Maiden Grass**  
A superb grass that adds visual excitement wherever used. As summer draws to a close, the showy plumes take center stage, as they glisten and shine in the sunlight high above the foliage. Nearly sterile with a notably low seed set. Photo by Star Roses.  
UP TO 8' TALL, 5' WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 5-9 | #41620



**2**  
**Major Wheeler Honeysuckle**  
Hummingbirds flock to blazing red and gold blooms all summer long. An excellent, vigorous (but not invasive) selection of a North American native that thrives in high humidity and is mildew-free.  
UP TO 10' TALL WITH SUPPORT  
PARTIAL TO FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-8 | #06783



**3**  
**Blue Heaven Little Bluestem**  
Narrow, upright, grassy foliage creates a great vertical accent. Emerges blue, develops pink and burgundy hues in late summer, and turns a rich copper in fall. Also perfect for bird-friendly landscapes.  
UP TO 4' TALL 3' WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 3-10 | #08611



**4**  
**Kudos Gold Dwarf Agastache**  
Strike it rich with shades of gold that adorn this prolific bloomer with loads of richly colored flowers on dense, upright flower spikes. Wonderful summer color for warm, dry regions. Drought tolerant in coastal regions.  
UP TO 26" TALL AND WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 5-10 | #41252



**Mango Popsicle Dwarf Poker**  
Mango-orange spikes bloom continuously throughout summer and into fall. The tidy clump of narrow green foliage remains neat throughout summer. A terrific drought tolerant garden plant and excellent cut flower.

FOLIAGE UP TO 18" TALL AND WIDE;  
BLOOMS REACH 30" TALL  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 6-9 | #08025



**Brakelights® Red Yucca**  
Vibrant, brake light-red blooms are a great color improvement to this species! This compact selection rarely sets seedpods, meaning more prolific flowering over an exceptionally long season.

FOLIAGE UP TO 2' TALL AND WIDE;  
BLOOMS RISE 3' TALLER.  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 5-10 | #06418



**Apex™ Blue Meadow Sage**  
A compact selection and stunning addition to any border with spikes of intense blue-violet flowers that top dense, shrub-like clumps of fragrant, green foliage throughout summer. Adds bold color in mass plantings.

UP TO 18" TALL AND WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-9 | #43497



**Kudos Coral Dwarf Agastache**  
This prolific new compact hybrid has an impeccable habit, increased hardiness, improved disease resistance, and tolerance of wet, cold soils! Drought tolerant in coastal regions.

UP TO 10' TALL WITH SUPPORT  
PARTIAL TO FULL SUN  
ZONES 5-10 | #41251

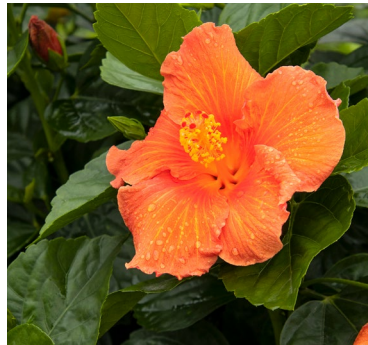
## More Hummingbird-Friendly Plant Options



**Colorburst™ Rose Cape Fuchsia**  
ZONES 6-10 | #42884



**Kanga Pink Kangaroo Paw**  
ZONES 9-11 | #09404



**Jazzy Jewel® Amber Hibiscus**  
ZONES 9-11 | #43646  
(grow as annual in all zones)



**Emberglow Montbretia**  
ZONES 6-10 | #01947

### HUMMINGBIRD GARDEN TIPS

**Use plants with prolific tubular flowers in shades of bright orange, red, yellow, pink, and even vivid purple.**

**Plant hummingbird-friendly plants in masses to provide plenty of nectar for their incredibly high metabolism.**

**Avoid pesticides and be more tolerant of insects in your garden (and any resulting damage on your leaves).**

**Complement native flowers with longer blooming cultivars to keep the feast going from April through September.**

“Remember to keep cats indoors (they are experts at catching hovering hummingbirds) and not to use pesticides.”

KEVIN MUNROE, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

# Birding Garden

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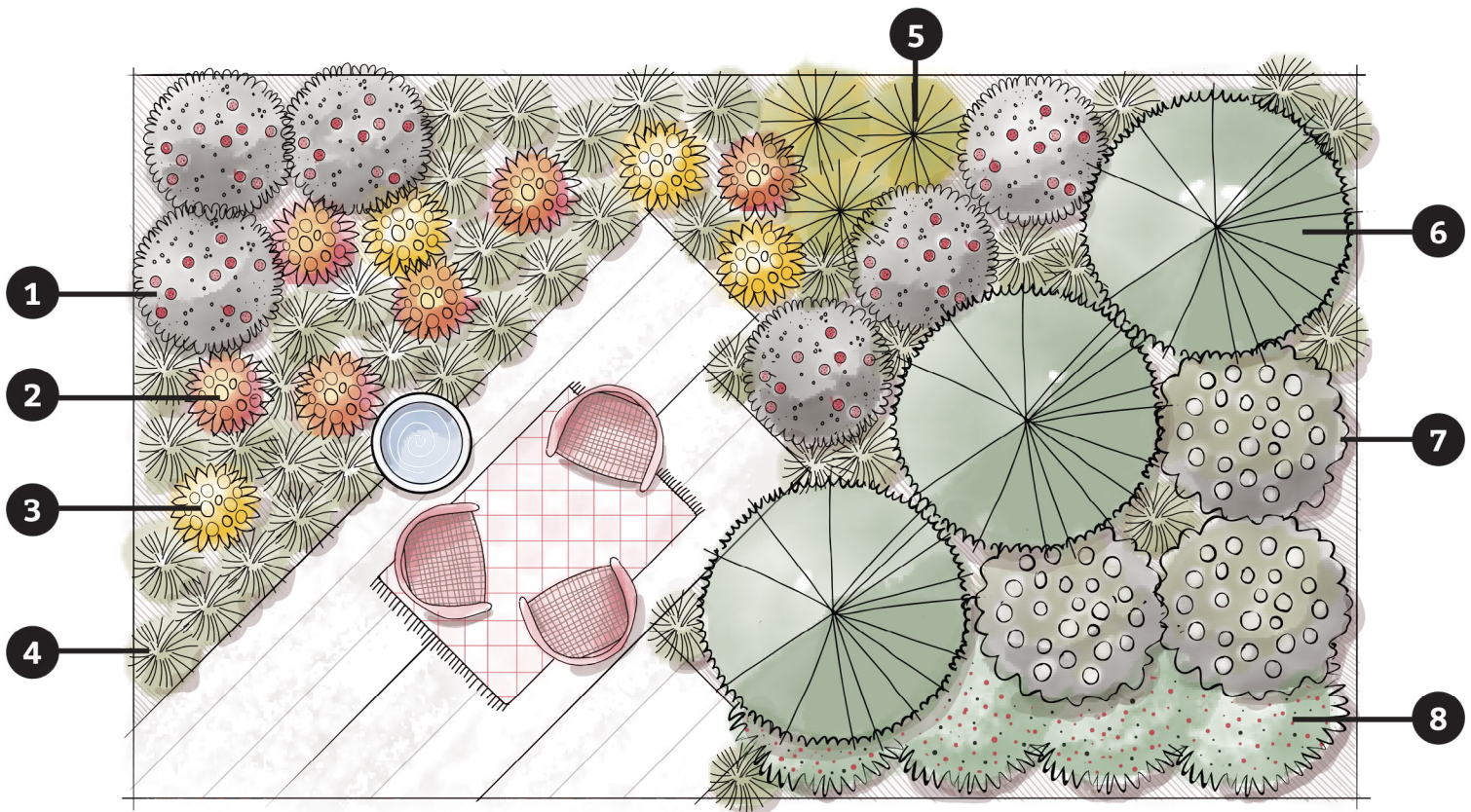
“Gardening is most beneficial for wildlife when it’s a bit messier than most of us are used to: fallen leaves, branches and old stems provide lots of nutrition and habitat.”

DEBORAH BARBER, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MARYLAND/D.C

**THE RESOUNDING AGREEMENT OF BIRD LOVERS** and habitat experts is that an insect-friendly garden is a bird-friendly garden. Kevin Munroe of The Nature Conservancy says, “the best bird feeder you can have on your property is an insect-friendly landscape of native plants, wildflower gardens with no pesticides, and several ‘wild patches’. Even nectar- or seed-specialists like hummingbirds and goldfinches feed insects to their hungry young.” On top of plenty of insects, birds seek fruit, seeds, shelter, and clean water to thrive.



# Birding Garden Landscape Plan



1. BLACK TOWER ELDERBERRY 2. CHEYENNE SPIRIT ECHINACEA 3. GOLDSTURM BLACK-EYED SUSAN 4. LITTLE BUNNY DWARF FOUNTAIN GRASS 5. OVERDAM FEATHER REED GRASS 6. JEANGENIE™ COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE 7. BRILLIANT RED CHOKEBERRY 8. EICHHOLZ COTONEASTER



## Black Tower Elderberry

The fantastic burgundy colored foliage on this upright shrub offers beautiful contrast in the garden. Bright pink flowers are followed by blackish red berries that provide seasonal forage for birds.

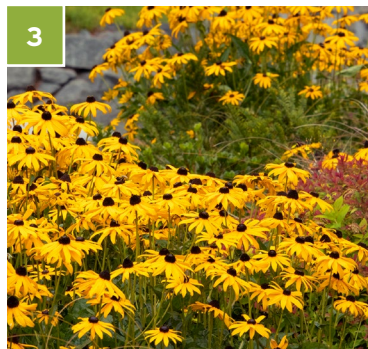
UP TO 8' TALL, 4' WIDE  
PARTIAL TO FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-8 | #00408



## Cheyenne Spirit Echinacea

Expect a vibrant color range in rich shades of orange, scarlet, purple, cream, and golden yellow. Each is unique and all are exceptional bloomers on vigorous, full plants. Leave seedheads up over winter for birds.

UP TO 30" TALL, 24" WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-10 | #08702



## Goldsturm Black-Eyed Susan

A colorful, fuss-free border plant and excellent choice for wildlife and wildflower gardens. Bright, daisy-like, golden yellow flowers with black centers cover the dark green foliage. Tolerates heat, humidity, and clay soil.

UP TO 26" TALL, 24" WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 3-9 | #07101



## Little Bunny Dwarf Fountain Grass

The most dwarf of the fountain grasses with fluffy, buff-colored blooms and foliage that turns golden russet in fall. Offers seeds and shelter for foraging birds. Drought tolerant when established.

UP TO 12" TALL AND WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-9 | #06359



**5**  
**Overdam Feather Reed Grass**  
 Beautiful yellow-margined foliage with red-brown, feathery summer plumes that turn a rich gold color in fall. Sterile seeds do not produce unwanted seedlings but still offer food for birds. Thrives in sunny, dry northern climates.

UP TO 2' TALL AND WIDE; BLOOM STALKS REACH 6' TALL  
 FULL SUN  
 ZONES 4-9 | #01407



**6**  
**JeanGenie™ Colorado Blue Spruce**  
 The beauty of a classic Colorado Blue Spruce on a slower-growing plant, perfect for smaller landscapes. A handsome pyramidal form with a denser growth habit and brighter blue needles. Offers fantastic year-round shelter for birds.

SLOW GROWS UP TO 15 FT. TALL, 8 FT. WIDE. PARTIAL TO FULL SUN  
 ZONES 2-8 | #05271



**7**  
**Brilliant Red Chokeberry**  
 An improved, compact selection noted for its brilliant red fall foliage and larger, more abundant glossy red fruit. The tart and bitter fruit is a favorite for birds, and is good for jams and jellies.

UP TO 8' TALL AND WIDE  
 FILTERED TO FULL SUN  
 ZONES 4-9 | #00307



**8**  
**Eichholz Cotoneaster**  
 A very low-growing, wide-spreading groundcover with showy red berries that form in summer and offer nutrition for birds through the winter. Glossy leaves provide rich autumn color as they turn to gold to orange-red.

UP TO 1' TALL, SPREADING TO 10' WIDE  
 PARTIAL TO FULL SUN  
 ZONES 5-8 | #02910

## More Bird-Friendly Plant Options



**Marina Strawberry Tree**  
 ZONES 7-9 | #00292



**Sprengr Asparagus Fern**  
 ZONES 9-11 | #00330



**Early Bird Gold Gloriosa Daisy**  
 ZONES 4-10 | #07111



**Santa-Rita Tubac™ Prickly Pear**  
 ZONES 8-11 | #02546

### BIRDING GARDEN TIPS

A couple of clean, well-maintained bird feeders are ok, but insects, seeds, and fruit should be the focus of a bird-friendly garden.

Allow your yard to be "insect friendly"; avoid pesticides as much as possible and learn to tolerate some insect damage on plants.

Strive for seasonal and structural diversity with evergreens for year-round shelter, and varying sizes of plants and shrubs.

Allow plants to go to seed and leave the seedheads standing through winter to provide nutrition for birds like goldfinches.

Provide a source of water that is cleaned and filled often.

"Learn to accept predators in your yard ... they are signs your yard is thriving enough to support a healthy food web!"

KEVIN MUNROE, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY



# *Bees and Butterflies Garden*

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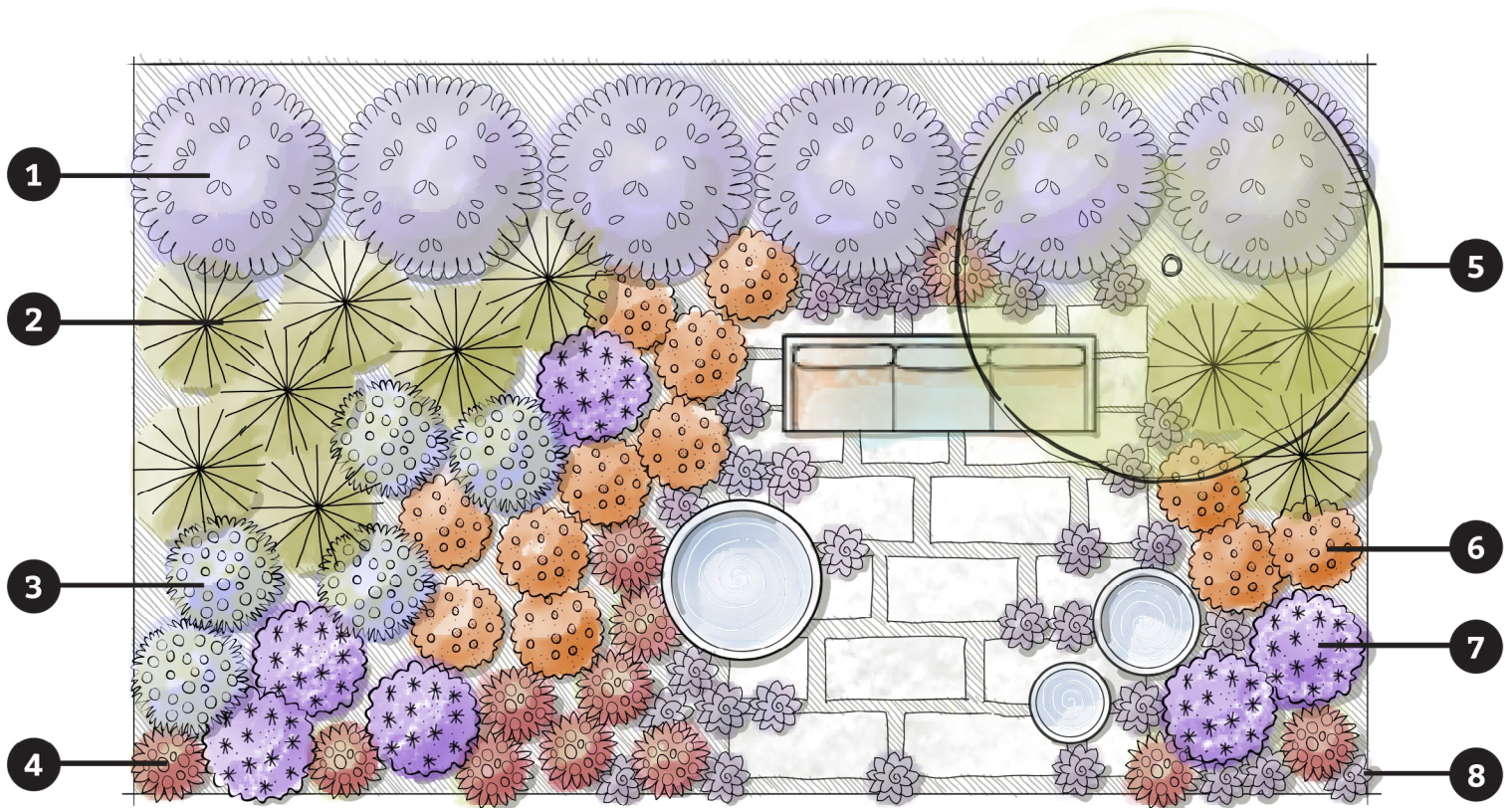
“Find some part of the garden or yard where there is a permanent area tucked away where you can have an organic layer into which all sorts of insects can nest, overwinter, and find shelter. This is great for birds, too!”

MACE VAUGHAN, THE XERCES SOCIETY

**NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN GARDENING**, the activity of pollinators in your garden can be a source of new joy, enthusiasm and curiosity every season. There's really nothing like a pollinator-friendly garden to remind you of the positive impact you can make, even in a small space. When you see bees and butterflies visiting your flowers, you know you're doing a great job!



# Bees and Butterflies Landscape Plan



1. PETITE INDIGO® DWARF BUTTERFLY BUSH 2. NORTHWIND SWITCH GRASS 3. LA BARBE BLEUE™ BLUEBEARD 4. MARIACHI™ BANDERA HELENIUM 5. PRAIRIFIRE CRABAPPLE 6. GAY BUTTERFLIES MILKWEED 7. GRAPE CRUSH NEW ENGLAND ASTER 8. SUNSPARKLER® FIRECRACKER SEDUM



**Petite Indigo® Butterfly Bush**

A spectacular summer show of slender, dark lavender to reddish purple flower spikes accented by gray-green foliage. A useful dwarf form with nectar-rich flowers that have a light, pleasant fragrance.

UP TO 5' TALL AND WIDE  
PARTIAL TO FULL SUN  
ZONES 5-9 | #01377



**Northwind Switch Grass**

A compact, clumping grass with excellent vertical form. Olive to blue-green foliage turns golden yellow in autumn. Airy flower panicles produce showy seed heads, and sturdy stems stay upright, giving protection to wintering songbirds.

6' TALL, 3' WIDE  
PARTIAL TO FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-9 | #02296



**La Barbe Bleue™ Bluebeard**

A neat, compact bluebeard with unique, fragrant, and shiny yellow foliage that adds a warm glow to the landscape. An abundance of deep-blue flower spikes offers nectar and pollen in summer and early fall.

UP TO 36" TALL, 30" WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONE 5-9 | #40981



**Mariachi™ Bandera Helenium**

Vibrant flowers on upright stems wave enthusiastically above a compact mound of green foliage. A profusion of gold-tipped, brick-red flowers full of pollen for bees from late summer into fall, often until first frost.

UP TO 15" TALL, 18" WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 3-9 | #43122



### Prairiefire Crabapple

An outstanding early flowering tree with an upright form that becomes rounded with age. Reddish new foliage matures to a dark green. Lovely deep pink spring flowers produce persistent, small, dark red-purple fruit.

UP TO 20' TALL AND WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-8 | #06114



### Gay Butterflies Milkweed

A brilliantly colored, easy-care, and well-behaved milkweed with fiery shades of red, orange, and yellow in summer. Tolerant of lean, unimproved soils, and perfect for naturalized areas, meadows, and borders.

UP TO 3' TALL, 2' WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-11 | #02828



### Grape Crush New England Aster

Deep purple flowers are densely packed on a nicely rounded mound. A fantastic way to keep your garden blooming beyond summer, providing continuing bright color and a nectar source for butterflies. Photo by Walter's Gardens.

UP TO 2' TALL, 3' WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 3-8 | #45141



### SunSparkler® Firecracker Sedum

Brilliant burgundy-red sedum clusters all season long with soft pink flowers in late summer. Perfect in shallow containers, in front of taller plants, or tucked into pathways.

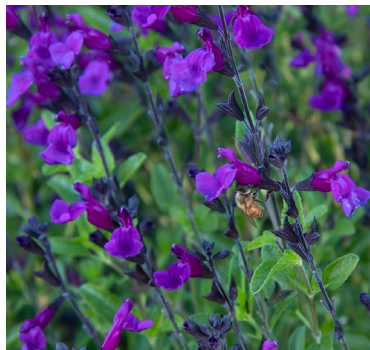
UP TO 8" TALL AND WIDE  
FULL SUN  
ZONES 4-10 | #41272

## More Pollinator-Friendly Plant Options



### Star Jasmine

ZONES 8-11 | #07005



### VIBE® Ignition Purple Salvia

ZONES 7-11 | #42069



### Purple Potion™ Trailing Lantana

ZONES 9-11 | #41421



### Monarch Magnet Milkweed

ZONES 9-11 | #44304

### BEES AND BUTTERFLIES GARDEN TIPS

Avoid pesticides as much as possible, and if pest control is necessary, always start with the gentlest, most targeted approach.

Remember that a healthy insect population is full of beneficial insects that will naturally keep pests in check.

Plant the same pollinator-friendly plant in masses of at least 3'x3'. This makes them easier to find and more efficient to forage for pollinators.

Find a balance between tidying up the garden and leaving some potential nesting structures for insects.

Have something in bloom from spring through fall to provide nectar and pollen for as long as possible.

“By having an insect-friendly garden, you’re setting the foundation for so much more life to come.”

MACE VAUGHAN, THE XERCES SOCIETY

# Resources

HARLEQUIN™ MAGENTA BEARDTONGUE

**AT MONROVIA**, we recognize the integral role that pollinators and beneficial insects play in plant and environmental health. We grow thousands of plants that support pollinators, and we work with experts like the Xerces Society to develop and improve our pollinator-friendly growing methods.

Representatives at The Xerces Society and The Nature Conservancy were consulted in the making of this book, and we recommend checking their websites for more detailed information about how we can all be better stewards of the little ecosystem in our backyards.

## GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS AND BIRDS HERE:

[pollinator.org/guides](http://pollinator.org/guides)

[pollinator.org/gardencards](http://pollinator.org/gardencards)

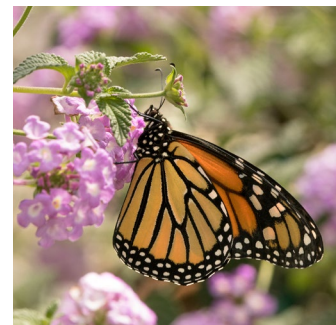
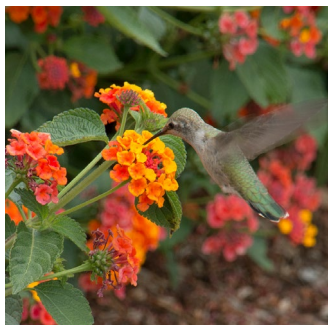
[xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators](http://xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators)

[xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center](http://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center)

[xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-assessment-guides](http://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-assessment-guides)

[audubon.org](http://audubon.org)

[nature.org](http://nature.org)





*More Ways to  
Grow Responsibly*

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**ADDITIONAL POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY  
RESOURCES FROM MONROVIA**

[monrovia.com/be-inspired/category/pollinators.html](https://monrovia.com/be-inspired/category/pollinators.html)

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