

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT BIRDS

Are you a bird fancier? Our severe winters work a hardship on our feathered friends. Now is the time to start thinking about new plantings which will enhance bird activity in your golf course or yard and provide for them next winter.

The following is a partial list of plants which provide both food and shelter or nesting materials for many Chicago area birds.

Berberis thunbergii (Japanese Barberry): A low to medium shrub with red berries in the fall lasting into winter. The berries are favored by the catbird, cedar waxwing, chipping sparrow, hermit thrush, junco, robin, song sparrow and tree sparrow. It can become a serious weed problem in some areas.

Cornus florida (Flowering Dogwood) and **Cornus mas** (Cornelian Cherry Dogwood): Small trees with bright red to scarlet fruit in the fall. The fruit is favored by 93 kinds of birds, including bluebird, brown thrasher, bob-white, cardinal, catbird, cedar waxwing, downy woodpecker, flicker, robin, song sparrow, thrushes and towhee.

Crataegus sp. (Hawthorns): Small trees with miniature red apple-like fruit. Fruit is present in the fall and into the winter on Cockspur and Washington Hawthorns. The fruit attracts 39 kinds of birds, including blue-bird, bob-white, cardinal, cedar waxwing, fox sparrow, hermit thrush, kingbird, pine grosbeak, purple finch, and robin. The Washington Hawthorn is a particular favorite.

Euonymus europaeus (European Spindletree): A tall shrub with rose-pink and orange fruits in the fall and lasting into winter. Bluebird, brown thrasher, cardinal, catbird, flicker, robin, scarlet tanager, towhee, and others like this fruit.

Lonicera tatarica (Tartarian Honeysuckle): A tall shrub with red berries in June and July. It may become a weed problem.

The berries attract 20 kinds of birds, including bob-white, catbird, cedar waxwing, junco, olive-backed thrush, pine grosbeak, red-eyed vireo and others.

Morus alba (White Mulberry): A medium sized tree frequently planted to prevent excessive depredation of fruits having greater ornamental value. The blackberry-like fruits are white or pink to purplish in early summer. They are a favorite fruit of more than 50 native songbirds.

Rhamnus sp. (Buckthorn): Tall shrubs having red to blue-black fruit in the fall. Some berries may last into winter. Shrubs may become a weed problem. The fruits attract 18 kinds of birds, including blue jay, brown thrasher, catbird, cedar waxwing, junco, kingbird and robin.

In addition, several coniferous evergreens also provide food and shelter for many birds. These evergreens include Colorado Blue Spruce, Red Spruce, White Pine, Austrian Pine and White Spruce.

Many other woody ornamentals are also excellent food sources for Chicago area birds. These ornamentals include: Sugar Maples, Crabapples, Yellow and Canoe Birch, Russian and Autumn Olive, Spicebush, Bayberry, Virginia Creeper, Cherry (various species), Sumac (various species), Roses (various species), Viburnums (various species) and Grapes, to name a few.

Seeds from many garden flowers, such as phlox, verbena, zinnia, sweet william, marigold, cosmos, columbine, chrysanthemum, amaranthus, helianthus and the sunflower also are important in attracting birds.

Remember, once you invite birds to your property, they will rely on you for their food all year. Bird feeders and water will probably be needed to get the birds through severe winters.

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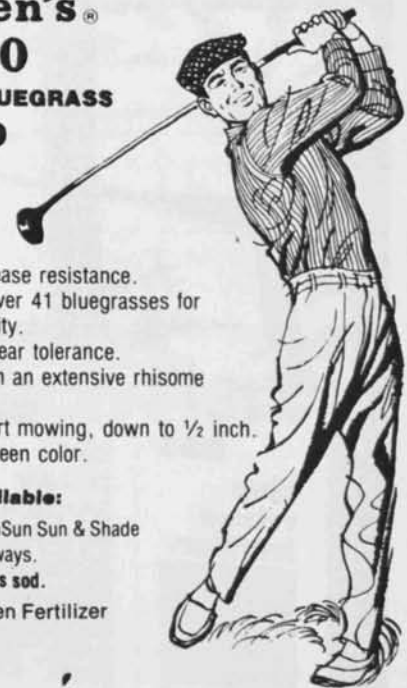
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