



WILDLIFE HABITAT

Creating a wildlife habitat in your yard takes a few easy pieces. The National Wildlife Federation recommends the following steps.



PROVIDE FOOD.

Everyone needs to eat! Planting native forbs, shrubs and trees is the easiest way to provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife require to survive and thrive. You can also incorporate supplemental feeders and food sources.

SUPPLY WATER.

Wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and reproduction. Water sources may include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands; or human-made features such as bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, installed ponds or rain gardens.

CREATE COVER.

Wildlife require places to hide in order to feel safe from people, predators and inclement weather. Use things like native vegetation, shrubs, thickets and brush piles or even dead trees.

OFFER A PLACE TO RAISE THEIR YOUNG.

Wildlife need a sheltered place to raise their offspring. Many hiding places can double as locations where wildlife can raise young. These include wildflower meadows and bushes where many butterflies and moths lay their eggs, and caves where bats roost and form colonies.

HELP WILDLIFE THRIVE WITH HEALTHY HABITAT.

Wildlife thrives in a healthy habitat with the food sources appropriate to their ecosystem, clean water, and plants free from harmful chemicals. Practicing sustainable gardening with the use of native plants, water conservation, and not using pesticides or herbicides ensures wildlife abundance.

READY...SET...CERTIFY!

Once you have provided these essential elements to make a healthy and sustainable wildlife habitat, join the thousands of wildlife enthusiasts across the country who have earned the distinction of being part of NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat® program.



RESOURCES

- Certify your habitat through the National Wildlife Federation: <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help.aspx>
- Certify your habitat through the Audubon Society of Portland: <http://backyardhabitats.org/>

If you're a fan of Spring Lake, GO NATIVE! For additional information, visit MeadowsWater.org



THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



WILDLIFE HABITAT

LET'S DO THIS AT HOME!

Project: Orange Bird Feeder

MATERIALS:

- 1 orange;
- 4 pieces of string cut into 24 lengths;
- bird seed



DIRECTIONS:

1. With a sharp knife, cut the orange in half and scoop out the flesh. Pierce 4 small holes on opposite sides about 1/2 from the top edge of each half.
2. Thread one piece of twine through a hole, and out the opposite end. Repeat with the second piece of twine in the remaining holes.
3. Gather the ends together and tie in a knot. Repeat with the other half.
4. Fill with bird seed and hang from sturdy branches outside.

Project: Bee House

MATERIALS:

- Board (scrap lumber is perfect, untreated wood)
- Drill and drill bits (1/8 up to 3/8")
- Drill bit - 5/16ths of an inch or similar creates a hole that attracts Mason bees
- Hammer and a few nails, or screw and screwdriver
- Plastic band (optional, but an easy way to mount your bee house to a fence or post)
- Safety glasses and gloves
- Saw (hand saw or power saw)
- Untreated wood, such as a short log or a chunk of firewood



DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut the wood pieces. Cut the log to a length that will fit in the location where you intend to hang it. Approximately 1 foot tall is a good length. Cut the flat board into a square shape that is the same size as one end of your log. This is to provide something of a "roof" on the bee house.
2. Drill holes in the log. Drill holes into one side of the log, about 4 inches (10 cm) deep and about 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart. If you use a drill bit that is about 5/16th of an inch wide, you will attract Mason bees. Mason bees rarely sting.
3. Make the roof. Nail or screw on the roof to the top of the log. This will make a roof that will keep rain from running into the holes.
4. Place house outside. Set the house on a stable location. Look for a place that gets morning sun and shade the rest of the day. If your log is not too wide around, you can use a plastic clasp to hold it in place against your fence. Be sure to never spray insecticides near your bee house. If your neighbor uses insecticides, mount your bee house far from their property. If you need to move your bee house, try to do this after November.

If you're a fan of Spring Lake, GO NATIVE! For additional information, visit MeadowsWater.org

