

# BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN DESIGN SHEET

FROM TAYLOR CREEK RESTORATION NURSERIES AND NATIVE LANDSCAPES BY AES

## What is a Bird & Butterfly Garden?

Bird & Butterfly Gardens preserve natural communities by providing homes for some of the most beautiful, winged members of our ecosystem. The native prairie plants specially chosen for your garden will provide hours of enjoyment while they support all life stages of butterflies—from egg, to caterpillar, to pupa, & adult—and furnish food and shelter for birds. Some of these perennial plants will bloom all season into the fall. They grew here naturally before the pioneers came to this land, so in addition to being beautiful, they're hardy and low-maintenance.

## Bring 'em in!

Here in the Midwest, your Bird & Butterfly Garden may attract hummingbirds, bluebirds, chickadees, goldfinches, house finches, cardinals, and all kinds of migrating songbirds such as many types of warblers.

Butterfly visitors to your yard could include yellow swallowtails, black swallowtails, red admirals, cabbage whites, mourning cloaks (in wooded areas), and monarchs which are especially fond of Blazing Star (*Liatris species*) and Red Milkweed (*asclepias incarnata*).

Bird & Butterfly Gardens are also attractive to another winged creature—the dragonfly. These fantastic four-winged flyers are voracious mosquito eaters!

## Location is Critical

Choose a site out of the wind. Butterflies prefer feeding in areas where they don't have to fight air currents.

Well-drained soils are preferred, but native plants are so adaptable that almost any soil type will do. If your soil is heavy clay, you may wish to add organic matter like peat or composted manure.

## Simple, Straightforward Construction

It's not complicated. Just follow these simple steps:

1. Decide on the basic shape of your Bird & Butterfly Garden.
2. Remove any grass or sod. You can plant directly into the existing grade or raise the bed by adding and mixing soil.
3. Plant the native plants recommended in this design sheet.
4. Mulch the area to help keep weeds down and hold in moisture, but keep mulch away from the base of each plant.



5. Water your planting every other day for the first few weeks, until plants are growing and well-established.

Once your native plants are established, they'll thrive without additional watering. Fertilizers are not necessary.

## More Tips

- Hand weed biweekly until native plants are established.
- Avoid using lawn fertilizers or insecticides near your Bird & Butterfly Garden. Fertilizers will stimulate weed competition without benefiting your native plants. Insecticides could sicken or kill the butterflies and birds attracted to your garden.
- Come spring, mow and remove dead vegetation. Or simply burn it off if your fire department regulations allow it. Native plants thrive under fire management.
- Place natural rocks, bird houses, a bench or garden ornaments in and around your garden—Be creative! You'll learn and have fun in designing your own backyard landscape!

## Butterfly Facts:

Most adult butterflies live an average of 2 to 4 weeks if they are not eaten by predators. Many butterfly species require specific host plants in order to survive. Butterfly weed is a host plant for Monarch butterflies. Fox sedge is a host plant to the Skipper family of butterflies.



For more information, contact *Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries* or *Native Landscapes by AES* at 608-897-8641. Send e-mail to [info@appliedeco.com](mailto:info@appliedeco.com). We are happy to answer your questions. A more detailed bird & butterfly garden design sheet and a link to a technical manual are available online at [www.appliedeco.com](http://www.appliedeco.com).

*Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries* and *Native Landscapes by AES* are divisions of Applied Ecological Services, Inc., 17921 Smith Road, Brodhead, WI 53520.

# DESIGN YOUR OWN BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN

On the planning grid below, draw out your bird & butterfly garden plan. Ecological designers often cluster same-species plants together in groups of two to six plants. Maintain 1-foot spacing between plants throughout the bed.



## Bird & Butterfly Garden Plants for Sites with Full Sun

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	QUANTITY TO BUY/OTHER INFO
Allium cernuum	Nodding wild onion	_____
Asclepias incarnata	Red milkweed	_____
Aster azureus	Sky-blue aster	_____
Coreopsis lanceolata	Sand coreopsis	_____
Echinacea pallida	Pale purple coneflower	_____
Eupatorium purpureum	Purple Joe pye	_____
Heliopsis helianthoides	False sunflower	_____
Monarda fistulosa	Bergamot	_____
Penstemon digitalis	Bearded foxglove	_____
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	_____
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	Sweet black-eyed Susan	_____
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little bluestem	_____
Solidago rigida	Stiff goldenrod	_____
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie dropseed	_____

## Bird & Butterfly Garden Plants for Sites with Partial Shade

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	QUANTITY TO BUY/OTHER INFO
Allium cernuum	Nodding wild onion	_____
Andropogon gerardii	Big bluestem	_____
Asclepias incarnata	Red milkweed	_____
Aster laevis	Smooth blue aster	_____
Carex vulpinoidea	Fox sedge	_____
Echinacea purpurea	Purple coneflower	_____
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	_____
Eupatorium purpureum	Purple Joe pye	_____
Liatris species	Blazing star	_____
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal flower	_____
Monarda fistulosa	Bergamot	_____
Penstemon digitalis	Bearded foxglove	_____
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	Sweet black-eyed Susan	_____
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	_____
Solidago graminifolia	Grass-leaved goldenrod	_____
Ratibida pinnata	Yellow coneflower	_____

Many additional species are available. The lists at left include some of the more popular, showy species. Please contact our nearest restoration nursery for recommendations on additional species.



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For more information on Native Landscape Design, Contact Applied Ecological Services:  
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