# Native plants for birds and wildlife: *Bentonville & Northwest Arkansas*

**Bentonville and Northwest Arkansas**

Northwest Arkansas sits in the Ozark Highlands on the Springfield Plateau, largely underlain by limestone and dolomite. Soils are often cherty, and karst features such as sinkholes and springs are common. Post oak is the common oak of Ozark ridges and rocky slopes.

> Choose trees and shrubs that handle rocky, well-drained, often limestone soils.

## SHADE AND CANOPY TREES



### Post oak *Quercus stellata*

**Dry upland ridges; rocky or sandy soils**

Its acorns are an important food for deer, squirrels, and wild turkeys.



### White oak *Quercus alba*

**Sun to part shade; dry to moist, well-drained soil**

Acorns are a favorite food of birds, squirrels, and deer. Host plant for hairstreak butterflies.



### Chinkapin oak *Quercus muehlenbergii*

**Limestone and other calcareous soils**

An oak for limestone ground that attracts birds and butterflies. Host for the gray hairstreak.



### Shortleaf pine *Pinus echinata*

**Dry, sandy, acidic soils; ridges and slopes**

Cover and nest sites; its seeds feed small mammals and seed-eating birds.

## SMALL FLOWERING AND FRUITING TREES



### Serviceberry *Amelanchier arborea*

**Rocky woods and slopes; sun to shade**

A preferred serviceberry for birds and other wildlife.



### Eastern redbud *Cercis canadensis*

**Part shade; moist soil; fine on limestone**

Early spring flowers of special value to native bees and bumble bees.



### Flowering dogwood *Cornus florida*

**Part shade; well-drained soil**

Its fruit feeds birds, mammals, and deer. Host for the spring azure butterfly.

## SHRUBS



### Fragrant sumac *Rhus aromatica*

**Dry, rocky slopes and open woods**

Its berries are winter food for birds and small animals; flowers feed butterflies.



### New Jersey tea *Ceanothus americanus*

**Sun or part shade; dry soil; stays small**

Turkeys and quail eat the seeds; the flowers feed butterflies and native bees.



### Rusty blackhaw *Viburnum rufidulum*

**Dry, rocky woods; part shade**

Fruit for birds and mammals; nectar for bees and butterflies.

## FLOWERS, GRASSES, AND VINES



### Butterfly milkweed *Asclepias tuberosa*

**Full sun; dry soil**

Host plant for monarch caterpillars; nectar for butterflies and bees.



### Purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*

**Sun to part shade; well-drained soil**

Nectar for butterflies and native bees.



### Beebalm (wild bergamot) *Monarda fistulosa*

**Sun; dry to moist soil**

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bumble bees.



### Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*

**Sun; dry soil**

Its seeds are of particular value to small birds in winter; host for skipper butterflies.

**Before you plant**

- Check each plant's size at maturity for the spot you have in mind.
- Keep trees that grow taller than 15 feet out from under power lines and at least 15 feet from them (University of Arkansas Extension).
- Call 811 before you dig.
- Ask a local native plant nursery what's in stock this season.

**Skip these invasive plants** (University of Arkansas Extension)

- Bradford (Callery) pear. Try redbud, dogwood, or serviceberry.
- Chinese privet. Try beautyberry, spicebush, or possumhaw.
- Japanese honeysuckle. Try native coral honeysuckle.

Every plant listed is native to Arkansas and Tennessee. Native ranges and wildlife notes: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center plant database (wildflower.org). Sun and soil: Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Regional conditions: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Arkansas Forestry Commission. Every source: magnoliatreecare.com/planting-for-wildlife/. General education only.

**Magnolia Tree Care**
Call or text (870) 340-2074
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