

# GARDENS TO ATTRACT BEES, BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES



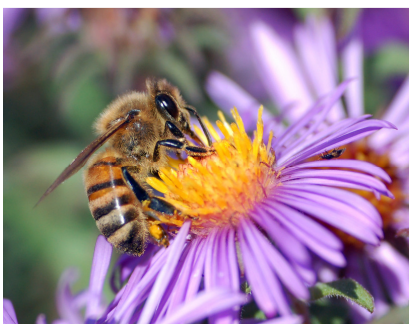
SHOREWOOD  
WATERS PROJECT

Creating a landscape that bees, birds and butterflies would be happy to call home contains these elements - water, shelter and food – similar to human’s basic needs. Gardens for these flying beauties are fun to design and grow and create a beautiful changing landscape of motion, fragrance and color all season long. They also attract a huge variety of insect-pollinators to help our flowers, fruits and veggies thrive, which are also food for the birds and wildlife.

**The Basics:** Make sure you have a source of fresh water in a shallow container or fountain. Butterflies and bees especially like shallow puddles for water and minerals and rocks to warm themselves on, like dark stepping stones or decorative boulders. The shelter of shrubs and evergreens also protect them from predators. Plant flowers of all colors in full sun that bloom throughout the season. Birds and insects prefer native plants grown in good soil with plenty of compost and placed in the **right location**. Following these instructions will keep plants healthy so you won’t need to use chemicals/pesticides that can be life-threatening to insects and wildlife. Below is specific information on these flying wonders:

**Birds:** In addition to eating food in bird feeders year round, winter birds like the berries from junipers, shrubs and trees. Spring, mid-April to early May, is a great time to attract migrating birds such as Baltimore Orioles with orange sections and jam. Attract stunning Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings with water features and suet cakes. Hummingbirds arrive a few weeks earlier and need high-energy food to support their high-energy activities. They love red, orange or pink flowers and may visit hundreds of flowers each day for feeding. Adding a hummingbird feeder will make them happy and provide higher concentrated food.

**Butterflies:** These colorful beauties need plants to lay their eggs on (host plants), that can then be used as food for the caterpillars that emerge. Each type of butterfly has specific host plants. If you don’t like holes in your plants, place the plants in an area out of sight. Adult butterflies need different nectar plants for food and are attracted to purple, red, orange and yellow flowers. Always locate gardens where they are sheltered from winds as butterflies like to keep warm.



**Bees:** Without bees many of our fruits and veggies would never grow, many flowers would never bloom and there would be no honey for our tea. They’re so very important to many aspects of life as

we know it. Many plants produce pollen for bees, but honey bees still need nectar for honey production. Bees are attracted to yellow, white, blue and purple flowers and they love flowers of herbs, fruit and veggies like blackberries, cantaloupe, cucumbers, gourds, peppers, pumpkins, squash and watermelon. Leave some brush and leaves somewhere in your garden so they can build a shelter to live.

---

## WHAT TO GROW

The list of plants, flowering and aromatic herbs, shrubs and trees below is a good start to provide these winged wonders with a happy home. Host plants for caterpillars are underlined.

**Annuals & Herbs:** Ageratum, Cigar Plant (*Cuphea ignea*), Coriander (*Coriandrum*), Cosmos (*Cosmos sulphureus*), Dill (*Anthem graveolens*), Fuchsia, Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*), Heliotrope (*Heliotropium*), Lantana (*Lantana camara*, *L. species*), Lavender (*Lavendula*), Licorice Vine (*Helichrsum*), Marigold, French (*Tagetes patula*), Mexican Heather (*Cuphea hyssopifolia*), Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia spp.*), Mint (*Mentha*), Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*), Nicotiana, Pansies (*Viola tricolor var. hortensis*), Parsley (*petroselinum crispum*), Pentas, Petunias, Snapdragons (*Antirrhinums majus*), Sunflower (*Helianthus spp.*), Thyme (*Thymus spp.*), Verbena (*Verbena spp.*) and Zinnia (*Zinnia spp.*)

**Bulbs:** Alliums, Crocus, Grape Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus*), Iris and Lilies (*lilium*)

**Perennials:** Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), Aster (*Aster spp.*), Bee-balm (*Monarda didyma*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Catmint (*Nepeta spp.*), Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), Columbine (*Aquilegia spp.*), Coneflower, Purple (*Echinacea purpurea*), Coreopsis (*Coreopsis spp.*), Daylily (*Hemerocallis spp.*), False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Gayfeather (*Liatris spp.*), Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*), Hibiscus (*Hibiscus spp.*), Hollyhock (*Althaea rosea*), Joe-pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), Lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Mallow (*Malva*), Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucanthemum*), Milkweed and Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias incarnate and tuberosa*), Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), Salvia (*Salvia spp.*), Sedum (*Sedum ternatum*), Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum superbum*), Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia*), Violet (*Viola spp.*) and Yarrow (*Achillea spp.*)

**Shrubs:** Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*), Chokeberry (*Aronia*), Dogwood (*Cornus spp.*), Elderberry (*Sambucus spp.*), Juniper (*Juniperus*), Lilac (*Syringe spp.*), Roses (*Rosa spp.*), Rose of Sharon (*hibiscus syriacus*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*), Weigela (*Weigela spp.*), Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis spp.*), Viburnum – Arrowwood and Korean Spice (*Viburnum*)

**Trees:** American Linden (*Tilia americana*), Crabapple (*Malus spp.*), Eastern Redbud (*Cercis*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus spp.*), Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*), Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*) and Willow (*Salix spp.*)

**Vines:** Clematis, Honeysuckle Vine (*Lonicera semervines*), Pipe Vine (*Aristolochia macrophyllia*), Scarlet Runner Bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*, an annual that's edible) and Trumpet Vine (*Campsis spp.*)

Information for this flyer was obtained from a variety of sources, including the University of Illinois and Wisconsin Extension articles, Bird City USA and Melinda Meyers.

---

### Shorewood Waters Project

Contact Kae DonLevy @ 414-588-0617

[www.villageofshorewood.org/watersproject](http://www.villageofshorewood.org/watersproject)

