

Plants to Attract Wildlife to Your Garden

Attracting Birds:

The vast majority of plants that will attract birds to your garden are those that produce fruit of some kind. Birds you could hope to attract with berried trees and shrubs include: American Robin, Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Junco, Cedar Waxwing and Bohemian Waxwing. Obviously, providing seeds and suet will attract additional birds but that is beyond the scope of this short article.

Some berry-producing woody plants for you to consider include:

- *Amelanchier* species (Chuckley-pear)
- *Cotoneaster* species
- *Crataegus* species (Hawthorn)
- *Ilex* species (Holly)
- *Malus* species (Crabapple)
- *Prunus* species (Cherries)
- *Sambucus* species (Elders)
- *Sorbus* species (Dogberry, Mountain-ash)
- *Viburnum* species



It should be noted that most birds are shy and greatly appreciate some sort of cover to protect them from the weather as well as predators. Any evergreen plants such as spruce, fir, pine, cedars, yew, etc, will suit that purpose.

Hummingbirds:

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are rare on the island but they do breed in small numbers in the Codroy Valley. Every year a few stragglers make it to the St. John's area. Commercial hummingbird feeders work well, but there are several flowers that also very attractive to these nectar-feeding birds. Such plants include:

- *Fuchsia*
- *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle)
- *Monarda* (Beebalm)
- *Salvia* (Sage)



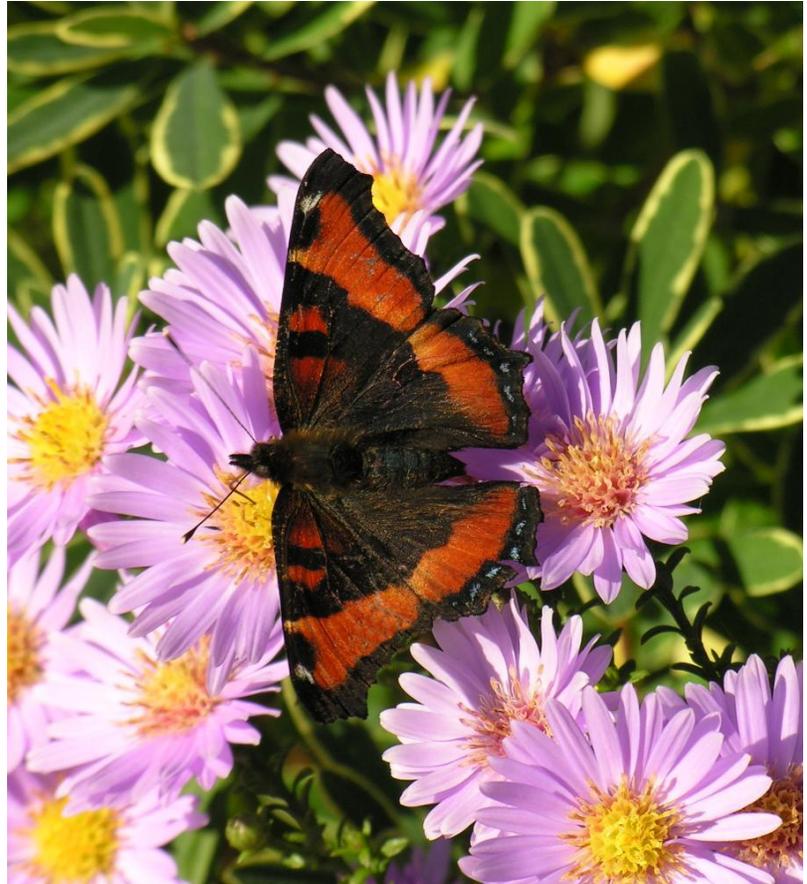
Plants for Butterflies:

The vast majority of butterflies will not harm garden ornamentals. Most have very specific food sources for their caterpillars and often, these plants are weeds or native wildflowers. For example, the caterpillars of Mourning Cloak butterflies feed on stinging nettle! The only unwelcomed butterfly is the Cabbage White (the common white butterfly in our gardens). Their caterpillars feed are commonly called green grub and feed on various cold crops, including ornamental kale.

One of the best plants for attracting butterflies is dandelion but most gardeners will not rush out to plant a garden full of dandelion. Thankfully, there are many garden-worthy plants that will do the trick, especially any daisy-like flowers. Plants to select from include:

- *Aster* species
- *Astrantia major* (Masterwort)

- *Calendula*
- *Coreopsis* species (Tickseed)
- *Dianthus* species (Pinks)
- *Doronicum* species (Leopard's-Bane)
- *Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower)
- *Echinops ritro* (Globe Thistle)
- *Erica carnea* (Spring heath)
- *Erigeron* species (Fleabane)
- *Eryngium* species (Sea Holly)
- *Eupatorium* species (Joe-pye Weed)
- *Gaillardia aristata* (Blanket-flower)
- *Helenium autumnale* (Helen's Flower)
- *Leucanthemum X superbum* (Shasta Daisy)
- *Liatris spicata* (Blazing Star)
- *Phlox paniculata* (Summer Phlox)
- *Rudbeckia* species (Coneflower)
- *Sedum spectabile* (Autumn Joy Sedum)
- *Solidago* species (Goldenrod)



Plants to attract Bumblebees:

Bumblebees may be scary to many gardeners but they very rarely sting and when they do, it is a last resort to defend themselves. They are very important pollinators and anyone who grows fruiting trees and shrubs will appreciate their foraging activities. Most plants attractive to butterflies will attract bees as well. However, there are some additional plants that will also work, including:

- *Aconitum* species (Monkshood)
- *Delphinium*
- *Digitalis* species (Foxglove)
- *Gentiana* species (Gentians)
- *Lupinus X polyphylla* (Lupine)
- *Monarda* species (Beebalm)
- *Penstemon* species (Beard-tongue)
- *Physostegia virginiana* (Obedient Plant)
- *Pulmonaria* species (Lungwort)
- *Pulsatilla vulgaris* (Pasque-flower)



Happy gardening!

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