

# Native Plants

That grow well in gardens

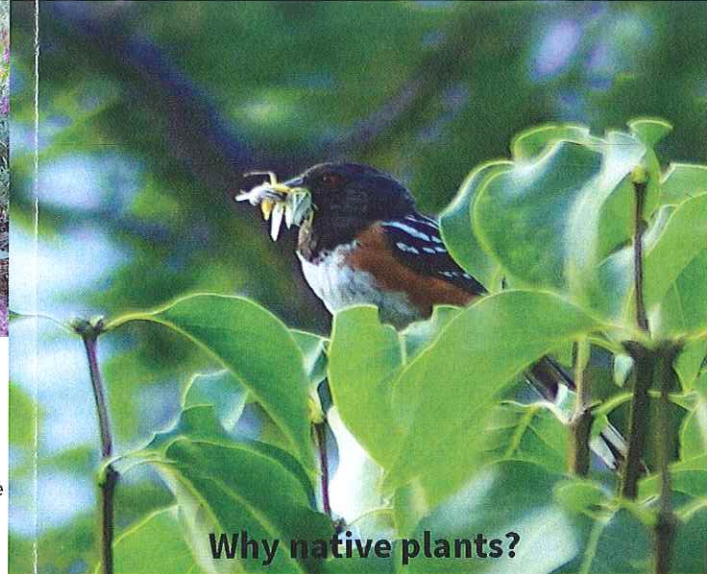
## How they benefit Birds:

LARVAL HOST PLANTS: Replenish migrating adult birds and feed baby birds.

BERRY/FRUIT PRODUCERS: Energy packed treats.

SEED/NUT PRODUCERS: Nutrient rich and long-lasting.

NECTAR PRODUCERS: High energy, sweet treat



## Why native plants?

### INSECTS!

96% of all land birds feed insects to chicks. Native plants host many insects that do not feed on nonnative plants. With fewer insects, baby birds starve and bird populations plummet. A diversity of native plants yields a diversity of insects and more birds!

Native plants provide shelter and food for birds but they also displace use of fertilizers and pesticides to improve water quality and mitigate climate change. Drought-tolerant native plants reduce the need for watering.

**Give birds half a chance in the world where their habitat shrinks daily!**

Scientific/Common Name	Source	Threatened Birds	Scientific/Common Name	Source	Threatened Birds
<b>Ground Cover</b>			<b>Shrubs</b>		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> Kinnikinnick	Berries Larval Host	Ruffed Grouse, Fox Sparrow Evening Grosbeak	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> Serviceberry	Berries Seeds	Townsend's Solitaire, Western Tanager, Mountain Bluebird
<i>Arctostaphylos nevadensis</i> Pinemat	Berries	Ruffed Grouse, Fox Sparrow Evening Grosbeak	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> Chokecherry	Larval Host Berries	Pine Siskin, Mountain Chickadee Red-breasted Nuthatch
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> Wild Strawberry	Berries Seeds	Western Tanager, Mountain Chickadee, Song Sparrow	<i>Ribes species</i> Currant	Berries Seeds	Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Western Bluebird
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> Indian Ricegrass	Seeds	Mourning Dove, Brewer's Sparrow, Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Sambucus species</i> Elderberry	Nectar Berries	Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Western Tanager
<b>Flowers and Forbs</b>			<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> Snowberry	Berries	Varied Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing
<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i> Arrowleaf Balsamroot	Seeds	Hairy Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee Red-breasted Nuthatch	<b>Trees</b>		
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> Bluebell	Nectar	Calliope, Black-chin and Rufous Hummingbirds	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Ponderosa Pine	Larval Host Nuts	Red Crossbill, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch
<i>Linum lewissii</i> Prairie Flax	Seeds	Sage Grouse, Gray Partridge Chukar	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i> Black Hawthorn	Berries	Townsend's Solitaire, Hairy Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing
<i>Penstemon species</i> Beardtongue	Nectar	Calliope, Black-chin and Rufous Hummingbirds	<i>Crataegus gaylussacia</i> Suksdorf Hawthorn	Seeds	Hairy Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, Ruffed Grouse
<i>Rudbeckia species</i> Western Coneflower	Larval Host Seeds	Pine Siskin, Mountain Chickadee, American Goldfinch	<i>Malus fusca</i> Western Crabapple	Fruit	Bohemian Waxwing, Varied Thrush, Ruffed Grouse
<i>Salvia dorrii</i> Purple Sage	Seeds	Calliope, Black-chin and Rufous Hummingbirds			
<i>Wyethia amplexicaulis</i> Northern Mule's Ear	Seeds	Hairy Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch			



## Firewise Your Property

Take proactive steps to increase the chance your home will withstand a wildfire. Understanding what factors create a high-risk environment enables homeowners to reduce fire danger, while reducing water usage and benefiting birds.



*Fuel reduction doesn't mean clearcutting all trees and shrubs in your yard*

Create a greenbelt for defensible space 100 feet wide using fire-resistant native plants, rock gardens and lawn. Eastern Washington is suitable for the following low-growing native grasses: blue bunchgrass, indian ricegrass and Sandberg grass.

Firewise landscaping allows plants and gardens to reveal natural beauty by leaving space between individual groups of plants and trees. it does not exclude good bird habitat.

**Zone 1:** Within 5 feet of the house, use rock, pavers and fire resistant perennials. Up to 30 feet from the house, plants should be limited to carefully spaced plantings that are low-growing and fire resistant. Prune all trees of limbs at least 10 feet from the ground. Prune trees that overhang roofs. Plant shrubs that are fire-resistant.

**Zone 2:** 30-100 feet Thin trees to 30 feet between tree crowns. Prune trees at least 10 feet above ground. Mix deciduous and conifer trees; most deciduous trees do not support high intensity fire. Plant shrubs free of resins, oils, and waxes. Use fuel breaks such as driveways, walkways and lawn.

**Zone 3:** 100-200 feet out: remove heavy accumulations of woody debris. Remove small conifers growing between taller trees.

Provide a water source-good for birds and wildlife and serves as a source for firefighting.

Use inorganic mulches, rock or gravel mulches are best. Wood Chips, lawn clippings and pine needles create a potential fire hazard.

Global warming causes a multitude of changes in the Earth's climate. Increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is the main cause of global warming. Burning fossil fuels is the primary cause of increased carbon dioxide levels. This is not in dispute among climate scientists. The changes in climate include many that pose threats to people and wildlife, including birds. Over half of North American bird species are under threat if things continue as they are now. Combating global warming will take serious actions on the national and international levels *along with* local and individual efforts. Here are some of the small but important steps we can take.

### **Native Plants= Benefits for people and birds:**

- Colorful birds with melodies bring nature close to us.
- Improved health- spend more time with birds and less time with noisy lawn mowers.
- Protect our food source. Native plants are essential for pollinators. Over 1200 crops depend on pollinators to grow.
- Save water: drought tolerant native plants reduce water use in critical arid parts of our state.
- Reduce pesticides. Hardy native plants support a balance of predator and prey insects and thrive without pesticides.
- Address climate change! Gas lawn mowers emit as much carbon as a car driving 45 MPH. Lawn fertilizers produce nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas with 300 times more warming potential than carbon dioxide.

*Photo Credits: Cover- Western Tanager by Steve Moore*

*Inside- Mt. Chickadee, Willow Flycatcher, Bunchberry, Gray Catbird by Cricket Webb Designer- Amy Jo Hjort*

**Kittitas  
Audubon  
Society**



Kittitas Audubon (KAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society serving the communities of Kittitas County, Washington, along the I-90 highway corridor from the Cascade Summit at the Snoqualmie Pass through the beautiful Kittitas Valley to the Columbia River.

The mission of KAS is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation with a focus on birds.  
<http://www.kittitasaudubon.org>



Kittitas County

**Master Gardener  
Program**

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

[ext100.wsu.edu/kittitas/gardening/master-gardeners](http://ext100.wsu.edu/kittitas/gardening/master-gardeners)

*Conserving water*

*Preserving birds*

*Protecting homes*



**Using**

# Native Plants

in fire-prone areas of  
*Eastern Washington*

**Make a difference!**

*Even adding one or two native plants matters!*