

## Conservation in Your World



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### Making Your Yard a Certified Wildlife Habitat

The National Wildlife Federation will make your yard a "NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat®" by committing to just a few important elements important to the visitors of your garden. Simple measures include the following:

- **Provide Food**
  - Plant native forbs, shrubs and trees that provide the best foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts. You can also incorporate supplemental feeders and food sources.
- **Supply Water**
  - Wildlife needs clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and reproduction. Water sources may include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands; or human-made features such as bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, installed ponds or rain gardens.
- **Create Cover**
  - Keep the wildlife safe by providing places to hide as well as stay out of bad weather. Use things like native vegetation, shrubs, thickets and brush piles or even dead trees. However, do keep places for cats to hide away from your bird feeders. Unfortunately, I have seen the death of more than one bird from a neighbor's cat hiding in the bushes.
- **Provide a Place for Wildlife to Raise their Young**
  - Places for cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise young, from wildflowers and bushes where many butterflies and moths lay their eggs to cavities or houses for bats.
- **Provide a Healthy Habitat**
  - Wildlife thrives in a healthy habitat with food sources appropriate to their ecosystem, clean water, and plants free from harmful chemicals. Practicing sustainable gardening with the use of native plants, water conservation, and not using pesticides or herbicides ensures wildlife abundance.



Think about what you can do for your garden to provide the above elements, and go to [nwf.org](http://nwf.org) to get certified. It will be rewarding to know you are doing all you can for our special garden creatures. Isn't May the most joyous time in our gardens!