

Wildlife Gardens for Healthy Neighbourhoods

Top 10 reasons to help grow Canada's Biggest Wildlife Garden

By Carolinian Canada

Who doesn't love to watch butterflies in a beautiful wildflower garden? Or a turtle peacefully soaking up the sun in a water garden? Or a songbird nest in a woodland garden? Unfortunately, our butterflies, turtles and birds are disappearing here. Luckily, you can change the trend and save butterflies for your great-grandchildren.

Carolinian Canada and WWF-Canada have teamed up with gardeners to grow beautiful and functional wildlife gardens that will also benefit your yard and neighbourhood. Now they want to work with you to expand the wildlife garden network across the Carolinian Zone. Google "Grow Canada's Biggest Wildlife Garden" to get started.

Why should you grow a wildlife garden?

1. It's easy. Now you can be part of an exciting new initiative in this special region to save local wildlife, water and our way of life. It's easier than ever with **In the Zone**, a new garden program that summarizes 30 years of science in one mobile site. Earn Healthy Garden Points and get ideas to grow a green future for you, your family and neighbourhood. It's like having an ecologist in your pocket.
2. It's beautiful. How much do you love your community and its natural beauty? As you may know, the nature here is unique – people travel from around the world to see wildlife in southern Ontario. See it in your own yard.
3. It's not rocket science. The secret to helping local wildlife is growing native plants (locally wild plant species) that are the building blocks of healthy habitat. Although many flowers attract butterflies, *only native plants* provide the nutrition they need for their babies to survive. Just like the Monarch – Milkweed relationship, hundreds of other butterflies have evolved with 1,500 native plants in this Zone. Native Oak trees for example support 500 different species of butterfly. So native plants – from flowers to trees - are the secret to healthy butterfly gardens – and a healthy environment for everyone!
4. It connects community. If everyone grows one native plant, it will help reverse the trend of wildlife loss, and we will start to grow Canada's Biggest Wildlife Garden together. You can use native plants like other garden plants. You will see that the butterflies love them and people too.
5. It's urgent. Wildlife populations are falling drastically everywhere but here, in Ontario's far south, we have the highest losses in the nation.
6. It protects your water. Native plants keep your water clean, abundant and swimmable. Carolinian Zone habitat protects drinking water and air for 11 M people.

7. It's climate-smart. Native plants create healthy ecosystems that protect your yard against extreme weather; control pests, save energy and are climate-adaptive.
8. It's business-smart. It's important not to remove plants from the wild so In the Zone is helping local groups and businesses provide high quality native plants to local communities and helping to grow healthy green jobs.
9. It's social. Share seeds, tips and sightings so soon you'll be replacing Dandelion and Queen Anne's Lace with Little Bluestem grass and Blazing Star flowers and boosting yard health.
10. It's free to get garden guides from In the Zone for sunny, shady and wet spots. They are designed for people who want a quick-start or those that want to dig in. Save money as native plants work for you – regenerating soil, saving water, energy and time.
11. Bonus! It's for the birds. They will flock when you start in investing in native plants as natural bird feeders. It's healthier for them, better for the environment and easier on your pocketbook and patio.

Let nature be your guide. Grow Canada's Biggest Wildlife Garden with us!