




Top 10 Trees for Your Wildlife Garden




Oak · *Quercus* ·   

Why: Host plant for 532 species of caterpillars (Lepidoptera); acorns are a resource for many animals including jays, woodpeckers, and warblers.

Native examples: white, black, willow, swamp white, pin, red, scarlet



Cherry · *Prunus* ·  

Why: Host plant for 456 Lepidopterans; cherries are favorite food source for 41 bird species including orioles, cedar waxwings, woodpeckers, thrushes.

Native examples: black, pin, chokecherry, also peach, plum, almond



Willow · *Salix* · 

Why: These lovely, water-loving trees support 455 species of Lepidoptera including mourning cloak, red-spotted purple, and viceroys caterpillars.

Native examples: white, black



Birch · *Betula* ·   

Why: Seeds and buds highly prized by birds like American goldfinches, nuthatches, and orioles; hosts 411 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.

Native examples: gray, river, yellow, sweet, paper






Aspen · *Populus* · 

Why: Eastern tiger swallowtails, twin-spot sphinx moths, and 365 other Lepidopterans use this tree with fluttering gold leaves in fall (*P. tremuloides*).

Native examples: quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, eastern cottonwood



Apple · *Malus* ·   

Why: Hosts 308 Lepidopterans; fruits and other plant parts are eaten by 28 bird species including hummingbirds, orioles, and woodpeckers.

Native examples: sweet (American), Southern (coastal plain)



Maple · *Acer* ·  

Why: Plant host for 297 Lepidopteran species including Io and Luna moths; seeds are eaten by cardinals, evening grosbeaks; goldfinches use for nesting. **Native examples:** red, sugar, silver



Elm · *Ulmus* ·  

Why: Supports 215 Lepidopteran species; seeds, buds, and flowers are eaten by birds and mammals; sought out by cavity nesters such as woodpeckers.

Native examples: American *ask for cultivar resistant to Dutch Elm Disease




Pine · *Pinus* ·  

Why: Winter cover, nesting sites, and food for 43 bird species including nuthatches, warblers, towhees, juncos, and woodpeckers; 201 Lep. species.

Native examples: Eastern white, pitch, red



Holly · *Ilex* · 

Why: Provides food and cover in winter for 36 bird species including thrushes, brown thrasher, white-eyed vireo, and woodpeckers.

Native examples: American, winterberry, inkberry