



# National Wildlife Federation's GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE™

## Certified Wildlife Habitat® Checklist

Use this walk-through checklist to confirm you have all the elements necessary to be certified:

**\*Note:** this checklist is only a tool to prepare your garden, please certify online at [www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat](http://www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat)

**FOOD:** Your habitat should provide a minimum of three of the following types of food. Supplemental feeders are optional.

- |  |                                 |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Feeder                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly Host plants to feed caterpillars- |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berries/Seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Sap    | <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel Feeder                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nectar        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollen | <input type="checkbox"/> Hummingbird Feeder                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foliage/Twigs | <input type="checkbox"/> Suet   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Fallen Leaf Layer</b> |  |

**National Wildlife Federation recommends a habitat garden space strive for a minimum of 50-70% native plants.**

**WATER:** Your habitat needs one of the following sources to provide clean water for wildlife to drink and bathe:

- |                                   |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdbath | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> River                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Garden       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean         | <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly Puddling Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Garden/Pond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream   | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring        |  |  |

**COVER:** Wildlife needs at least two places to find shelter from the weather and predators:

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded Area       | <input type="checkbox"/> Roosting Box      | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow or Prairie    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Leave dead perennial stems 12-18 inches for overwintering insects</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bramble Patch     | <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreens        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dense Shrubs/Thicket |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cover      | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush or Log Pile | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Garden or Pond |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pile or Wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Burrow            |   |  |

**PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG:** You need at least two places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior, mate and then bear and raise their young:

- |  |                                  |   |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mature Trees      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland | <input type="checkbox"/> Dead Trees or Snags                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Garden/Pond            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow or Prairie | <input type="checkbox"/> Cave    | <input type="checkbox"/> Dense Shrubs/Thicket                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Host Plants for Caterpillars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nesting Box       | <input type="checkbox"/> Burrow  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Fallen Leaf Debris</b> |   |

**SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES:** You need to employ practices from at least two of the three categories below to help manage your habitat in a sustainable way- *to better help wildlife, we advocate employing one or more practices from each category:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Soil and Water Conservation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Riparian Buffer</li><li>• Capture Rain Water from Roof</li><li>• Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)</li><li>• Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation</li><li>• Limit Water Use</li></ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reduce Erosion</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Controlling Exotic Species:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice Integrated Pest Management</li><li>• Remove Non-Native Plants and Animals</li></ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Use Mulch</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Organic Practices:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminate Chemical Pesticides</li><li>• Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers</li></ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rain Garden</b>   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Leave the leaves in garden beds and around the base of trees and shrubs.</b> |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Use Native Plants</b>   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reduce Lawn Areas</b>   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Compost</b>   |