



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

**Certified
Wildlife
Habitat®**

Requirements 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

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

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:

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|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <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 | | |

Note: options for nearby natural water sources do qualify that are on or near your property.

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

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|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Roosting Box | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow or Prairie | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave dead perennial stems 12-18 inches for overwintering insects |
| <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:

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|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Fallen Leaf Debris | |

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:*

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