

BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAMS

CHECKLIST FOR CREATING A WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY BACK YARD:

- Stop using pesticides and herbicides in your yard
- Recreate the multiple layers of plant growth found in natural areas—ground cover, mid-height, evergreen shrubs, tall trees, dead limbs (scags)
- Select plants to provide nutritional foods during different seasons
- Plant shrubs and small trees in same-species clumps for adequate pollination of fruit (hollies)
- Provide at least one clump of conifers (evergreens)
- Leave vines, leaf litter, brush piles
- Limit size of your lawn for less mowing, less fertilizing, less watering, and less pollution
- Avoid invasive exotic (non-native) plants.
- Supply a source of water—dripping or running water attracts birds—keep it clean
- Provide and monitor nest boxes of various sizes
- Use only organic, slow-release fertilizers, preferably compost
- Please keep the cat indoors!

National Wildlife Federation certification: www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat. Certification costs \$20. You can purchase a sign or a garden flag at the same time, if you wish, for an additional \$30. Membership includes a monthly National Wildlife magazine or an online magazine. (01/2018)

Texas Wildscape:

Currently, the Texas program for certifying your Texas Wildscape is on hold. Their website is noted below and any changes in the current freeze on activity will be monitored and passed along to members. (01/2018)

www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/best_of_texas_certification:

Rev. Jan 2018