



CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE

Backyard
HABITAT PROGRAM

Certify Your Garden

Whether you are limited to a small patio or have hectares of land, the Canadian Wildlife Federation would like to acknowledge your efforts in welcoming wildlife to your garden. The Backyard Habitat Certification program was initiated to recognize the hard work of Canadians in meeting the habitat needs of wildlife.

In certifying backyards there are three key areas that we look at:

1. Wildlife-friendly gardening

Certification recognizes efforts to welcome wildlife by meeting their four needs:

- **Food** – Food for a diversity of wildlife can be provided through combinations of seed, nut or fruit-producing trees, berry-producing shrubs, grasses and/or flowers. Consider food needs throughout the seasons.
- **Water** – If space limitations prohibit a pond, consider a bird bath or water bowl.
- **Shelter** – Providing evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, snags (dead trees), brush piles, logs and rock piles gives wildlife protection from inclement weather and predators.
- **Space** – Birds view your property in three-dimensional terms. Including diverse layers of vegetation — tall and short trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ground cover — increases the “space” of your habitat.

2. Earth-friendly gardening

The key to Earth-friendly gardening is the avoidance of chemical pesticides — both insecticides and herbicides (weed killers) — because pesticides harm organisms other than those targeted. They can also be damaging to human health and enter our waterways affecting environments far outside the boundaries of your garden. We also encourage the use of natural fertilizers, such as compost or well-aged manure, that improve the overall health of your soil instead of chemical fertilizers which often end up in our waterways.

3. Naturalized habitat

Regionally native plants (those that have grown wild in your area for centuries) generally require less maintenance and are better able to meet the needs of local wildlife than exotic flora. Many wildlife species are dependent on the presence of native vegetation for their survival. We look for the inclusion of some trees, shrubs or perennials native to your region.

Backyard Habitat Certification Application Form Please print clearly **\$10.00 application fee (tax included). Non refundable**

Mr. Ms. Mrs. Name of individual _____
Address _____
City _____ Province / Territory _____ Postal code _____
Telephone _____ E-mail address _____
Name(s) to appear on certificate _____

Property description (attach additional sheets to this form if more space is needed):

Approximate size of property: _____ sq. ft _____ acres _____ hectares

Check off the best description(s) of your property location: Urban Suburban Rural Shoreline
Briefly describe your garden project and how it benefits wildlife:

How long have you been working on this project? _____

List some of the wildlife that currently visit your property:

Check off the applicable response and give further information where indicated.

Please provide as complete a plant list as possible. Please use additional paper if more space is required.

My garden provides wildlife with food through the following:

Fruit-bearing shrubs, trees and vines, type/species: _____

Flowering trees, shrubs and perennials for pollinators, type/species: _____

Nut or seed-bearing trees and shrubs, type/species: _____

Seed-bearing perennials left through the winter, type/species: _____

Feeders, type(s): _____

Other (please specify): _____

My garden provides wildlife with water through the following:

- Pond with sloped sides and/or perches for wildlife
- Bird bath
- Recirculating stream
- Other (please specify): _____

My garden provides wildlife with shelter through the following:

- Evergreen trees or shrubs, type/species: _____
- Deciduous trees or shrubs, type/species: _____
- "Wild" area of tall grass
- Brush piles
- Snag (standing dead tree)
- Logs
- Rock piles
- Nesting boxes
- Bat house
- Other (please specify): _____

My garden provides wildlife with space through a diversity of vegetation:

- Grass
- Flowers
- Shrubs
- Small trees
- Tall trees

My garden is safe for wildlife because of the following reason:

- I don't use chemical insecticides or herbicides

My garden is Earth-friendly because of the following reasons:

- I use a rain barrel
- I use natural soil amendments (such as compost or well-aged manure)
- I have my own composter
- I water my lawn no more than once per week (if necessary)
- I leave grass clippings on my lawn
- I use fall leaves to mulch beds or as compost
- Other (please specify): _____

I have included the following trees, shrubs or perennials that are **native** to my region. Please list species names, scientific if possible, so that we can verify (e.g. eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) instead of just cedar, or sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) instead of just maple. Please note: hosta, peony (except *Paeonia brownii*), daylily and lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*) are not native. (For ideas on what is native to your region see our Plant Encyclopedia at WildAboutGardening.org.)

I have left wild or am naturalizing extensive areas of my property as the following: Forest Meadow

Other _____ Size of area: _____

Please include: A sketch of your garden indicating the general layout Photographs of key features

CWF occasionally features outstanding projects in our *Canadian Wildlife* magazine, *Bulletin* newsletter, other promotional material and/or on our websites.

I authorize CWF to use the information and photographs provided in the above-mentioned resources. Photography credits should be given to _____

I do not want my project featured in any resources. **Please note:** *Photographs cannot be returned.*

How did you hear about our Certification Program?

- CWF E-Newsletter
- Project CHIRP
- Event (please specify): _____
- Website (please specify): _____
- Other: _____

I confirm that the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please fill out our online form at WildAboutGardening.org or mail the completed form, along with sketches and photographs to:



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