

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Create An Easy And Practical Backyard Bird Garden

(NAPSA)—Gardening and bird-watching are two of the most popular hobbies in the United States. You can combine both and may make money in the process by creating a backyard bird garden. According to Michigan State University, a well landscaped yard can increase your home's value by 5 to 11 percent.

“Choosing what to plant to create a bird garden is easy and takes only a few steps,” says Wingscapes Birding Expert Stephen Kress, author and co-author of numerous birding books, including *The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds* and *The Audubon Backyard Birdwatch*.

What To Plant

You only need to consider a few basic plants to start your bird garden:

- A front row of wildflowers and nectar-bearing flowers, such as yellow black-eyed Susan and purple echinacea. Consider adding 3-foot-tall stakes for vines, such as the hummingbird-friendly trumpet vine and morning glory.
- Four or five taller flowering and berry-producing bushes, such as blackberry, blueberry, holly and winterberry.
- Two small trees that produce berries and give birds a perch, such as flowering dogwood, hawthorn, crab apple or serviceberry.

Feeders and Birdbaths

Feeders will also attract birds to your garden and make bird-watching easier. Consider a large



Creating a backyard bird garden may add value to your home and increase your enjoyment.

pole feeder and choose a high-quality birdseed mix that includes sunflower seeds. Spread some of the seed on the ground.

Birds like to splash in bird-baths year-round. The key consideration is to select a shallow bath just an inch or two deep and to keep it clean.

Photograph Birds While You're Away

You can enjoy watching all the birds in your garden even while you're away. Wingscapes BirdCam is a weatherproof, motion-activated digital camera that captures high-resolution photos and videos of birds.

You can view the images and videos on your home computer or TV. You can also e-mail those images or video clips or share them via Wingscapes.com, Flickr™, YouTube or other social media Web sites. For more information, visit www.wingscapes.com.