



# National Wildlife Federation's GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE™

## Garden Certification Walk-through Checklist

It's easier than you think to create your own wildlife garden! 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 needs three of the following types of plants or supplemental feeders:

- |   |                                 |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seeds from a plant | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Feeder        | <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly Feeder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berries            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sap    | <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel Feeder    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nectar             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollen | <input type="checkbox"/> Hummingbird Feeder |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foliage/Twigs      | <input type="checkbox"/> Suet   |   |   |

**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"/> Cave         | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush or Log Pile | <input type="checkbox"/> Dense Shrubs/Thicket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bramble Patch     | <input type="checkbox"/> Roosting Box | <input type="checkbox"/> Burrow            | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Garden or Pond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cover      | <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreens   | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow or Prairie |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pile or Wall |                                       |  |   |

**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  |   |   |

**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>• <i>Riparian Buffer</i></li> <li>• <i>Capture Rain Water from Roof</i></li> <li>• <i>Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)</i></li> <li>• <i>Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Limit Water Use</i></li> <li>• <i>Reduce Erosion</i></li> <li>• <i>Use Mulch</i></li> <li>• <i>Rain Garden</i></li> </ul> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Controlling Exotic Species:</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Practice Integrated Pest Management</i></li> <li>• <i>Remove Non-Native Plants and Animals</i></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Use Native Plants</i></li> <li>• <i>Reduce Lawn Areas</i></li> </ul>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Organic Practices:</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Eliminate Chemical Pesticides</i></li> <li>• <i>Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers</i></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Compost</i></li> </ul>  |