

Fine feathered friends like a variety

A huge yard or a biology degree is not needed to create a haven for feathered creatures. Follow these tips and birds will be flocking in the backyard in no time.

- To attract a variety of birds, plant an assortment of trees, shrubs and flowers that produce fruit, berries, seeds and nectar.
- Include some trees and shrubs,

such as evergreen and thorny bushes, that protect birds from natural enemies and provide safe nesting sites.

- Choose plants that change with the seasons. For instance, crimson buds that open into white blossoms in spring cover Tom's Zumi crab apple.
- Mix annuals and perennials for continuous bloom April into October. Old varieties often provide more nec-

tar than new hybrids.

- Remember the hardy native plants and shrubs, such as gray dogwood, goldenrod and little bluestem, that can supply shelter and food.
- Vary the heights of plant masses. Keep shorter plants in the front so that plants and the birds that feed on them can be seen.
- Leave open areas, both to at-

tract wildlife and to give a better view.

- Avoid chemical pest controls to protect birds. Besides, birds help control pests and destroy weed seeds.
- At least once a month, scrub birdbaths and bird feeders with a cloth or scouring pad to prevent the spread of disease (don't use detergents or chemical cleaners).

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