



BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT INFORMATION

Certifying your garden as a Texas Wildscape and a National Backyard Habitat is the perfect way to show your neighbors that you care about the environment, the birds you feed, the butterflies you attract with gorgeous flowering plants, and the community you live in. It's an easy process and it's very rewarding to see your accomplishment. **YOU JUST NEED TO DO IT!** Here are the websites and addresses.

To obtain an official Texas Wildscapes Certification Application

Texas Wildscapes
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

OR download the Texas Wildscapes Backyard Habitat Application from this website. The certification fee is \$15 (9/2012)

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/wildscape_certification.phtml

To obtain certification information for the National program:

National Wildlife Federation
11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190
800-822-9919/585-461-3092

The certification fee is \$20 (9/2012)

www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat

CREATING A BACKYARD HABITAT

To create your backyard habitat you must provide food, shelter, nesting areas, and water for birds and other wildlife. You must eliminate pesticides and herbicides and be tolerant of all wildlife--including slugs, snails, lizards, caterpillars and other creepy, crawly creatures!

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO CREATING A WILDLIFE HABITAT

1. Add native plants to your yard. Visit www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat for help from NWF's native plant guide. Check out www.dirtdoctor.com, OR www.westongardens.com for Texas native plants.
2. Hang a bird feeder—keep it clean
3. Add a simple water feature with a bird bath or shallow dish.
4. Install a nesting box to provide cover and a place to raise young.

CHECKLIST FOR CREATING A BIRD-FRIENDLY BACK YARD

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