



North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

WILDLIFE FACT SHEET

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

NATIVE SHRUBS & TREES

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) is a tri-national collaboration of diverse partners working to protect pollinators and raise the profile of pollinator issues.

The mission of the NAPPC is to encourage and support actions to benefit the health of pollinating species in North America.

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For more information about how to help pollinators or to make a tax-deductible contribution for pollinator protection, please contact us at: www.NAPPC.org or www.pollinator.org.

NAPPC is coordinated by the Pollinator Partnership.

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, spreading its watershed over parts of six states, including Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the entire District of Columbia. It supports over 3600 species of plants and animals and a variety of wildlife habitats, including wetland stopovers for waterfowl, fresh and saltwater habitats for fish and aquatic invertebrates, and forest and grassland habitat for birds and mammals.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has identified approximately 370 species of native plants within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (CBW), including 183 herbaceous plants, 68 shrubs, 28 herbaceous emergents, 78 trees, and 12 vines. Wildlife inhabiting the CBW rely on nearly 60% of these native floral resources especially for the leaves, roots, nuts, seeds, fruit, pollen, nectar and other food resources they provide - thanks to the reproductive services of the pollinators that visit them. Native plants are also important for shelter, nesting, perching, and other habitat uses.

Shrubs are the most important type of native plant for local wildlife in the CBW, with 93% of the species being used by small mammals and birds. Some of the most valuable species of shrubs provide nutritious berries, including:



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Black Huckleberry
 Dangleberry
 Northern Bayberry
 Inkberry
 Purple Flowering Raspberry
 Blueberries
 Sumacs

Gaylussacia baccata
Gaylussacia frondosa
Morella pensylvanica
Ilex glabra
Rubus odoratus
Vaccinium spp.
Rhus spp.

The Common Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) is consumed by 48 species of birds, while the Allegheny Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*) serves as a great nectar and pollen resource for butterflies and beneficial insects.

Trees are the second to shrubs as the most important group of native plants for wildlife in the CBW, with 87% utilized by wildlife populations in the area. Species of particular value to wildlife include Maple (*Acer* spp.), Birch (*Betula* spp.), Oak (*Quercus* spp.); and while they are wind-pollinated, each produces high-energy, nutritional seeds or nuts.



What You Can Do:

Pollinators are in decline throughout their ranges partly as a result of habitat loss and invasive species.

You can help pollinators, wildlife, and native plants in simple ways:

- Join NAPPC.
- Contact your legislators to tell them that you support measures to protect wild lands from development and to restore native habitats.
- Work with local and regional community groups to reduce the negative effects of urban sprawl and create pollinator habitat.

**Pollinators,
wildlife, plants,
and your friends
at NAPPC
Thank You!**

Some native tree species are good nectar and pollen sources for pollinators, in addition to providing food from the subsequent fruit development. The Sugarberry tree (*Celtis occidentalis*) for example, produces berries for songbirds and other wildlife and also serves as a larval host for butterflies.



The flowers of the Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) attract a variety of pollinators, while the berries produced by that pollination service provide sustenance to 64 species of wildlife, including 43 bird species.

Neotropical migrant birds depend on fruit resources along their migration routes through the CBW, including pollinator-friendly trees such as:



Flowering Dogwood
American Crabapple
Wild Cherry
Common Persimmon

Cornus florida
Malus coronaria
Prunus serotina
Diospyros virginiana

The Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) provides ample flowers and pollen resources to attract pollinators, and is used by 58 species of wildlife, including 35 bird species that rely upon its fleshy fruits as a vital early summer food.

Wildlife, like humans and so many other species on the planet, depend greatly on animal pollinators to assist plants in reproducing the leaves, roots, bulbs, fruits, seeds, and nuts upon which we all rely for our food and survival. Without pollinators, would wildlife even exist? Would we? Many native plants and wildlife are threatened by non-native organisms, which invade their habitats and out-compete with them for resources.

We can help to reverse this negative trend by helping to protect and increase the number of pollinators that help to propagate native plants and the food, shelter, and habitat they provide for wildlife. Protecting pollinators and the essential services they offer to the food web is an important step towards ensuring not only the future of native flora and fauna across the globe, but our own future as well.



References:

Slattery, Britt E., Kathryn Reshetiloff, and Susan M. Zwicker. 2003. Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Annapolis, MD.
Chesapeake Bay image: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/about.htm>.
Plant photos from USDA Plants Database at: www.photogallery.nrcs.usda.gov & plants.usda.gov.
Western bluebird: J. Sanford, 2000, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

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