



Evergreen Garden Club

# WILD IRIS



MARCH 2021

Hello EGC Members,

Although the calendar says Spring arrives this month, we know that it is still quite early for this elevation. But signs of Spring are starting to pop up along with the dream of infinite possibilities for this year's garden. Infinite possibilities before the realities of critters, lack of moisture, hail, etc. sets in. But just like we do, our gardens will endure and be the best that they, and we, have ever been! Happy Spring!

Love, peace and gardens!

Cherie Luke

EGC President



**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY**

**March 9, 2021**

**Meeting starts 9:15 a.m.**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Watch your email for details on how to join in**

**THE MARCH PROGRAM**

*Xeriscape Plants*

By

Kerry Poppe



**February 9, 2021  
Evergreen Garden Club  
General Business Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President, Cherie Luke at 9:15am on Zoom. Attending were Helen McLeman, Treasurer, Donna Moore, 2nd Vice President, Janice Theobald, Secretary, and Julie Ann Courim, Technology Officer. 21 members were on the call.

**President's Report - Cherie acknowledged February birthdays.**

**2nd Vice President's Report - General membership is at 69 and 10 Business members**

**Treasurer's Report - Nothing new to report**

**Secretary's Report - January minutes have been approved by the general membership as reported in the Wild Iris.**

**Technology Officer's Report - No report at this time.**

**General Program was led by our garden leads from the Public Gardens. They each spoke of a favorite and thriving plant or flower from the various gardens. The presentation will be available on the website.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Theobald  
Secretary Evergreen Garden Club**

**A special THANK YOU! to Cherie  
Luke and Julie Ann Courim for  
keeping the Wild Iris going  
strong during my recuperation!**

**Louise Heern  
EGC Wild Iris Editor**



**MARCH IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR GARDEN CHOICE  
IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN ASSIGNED!**

**THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY GARDENS  
ESPECIALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

*Fire Training & Rescue Center*, Bergen Park needs 2-3 new members. Contact Jan Parks [parksjl54@yahoo.com](mailto:parksjl54@yahoo.com) or Susan Garcia [blueberrypilot@yahoo.com](mailto:blueberrypilot@yahoo.com)

*Flowers for a Friend Statue Garden* at Hiwan Homestead Museum needs 2-3 new members. Contact Pam Hinish [lunaanddandy@gmail.com](mailto:lunaanddandy@gmail.com)

*Evergreen Library Garden* needs 2 more volunteers. Contact Mary Dickhoff [edickhoff@gmail.com](mailto:edickhoff@gmail.com) or Hannah Hayes [chiyalater@gmail.com](mailto:chiyalater@gmail.com)

**Existing volunteers for all gardens** please confirm your participation with your garden leader. Garden Leaders please contact me if you need assistance, I'll do what I can.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GARDEN VOLUNTEERS!  
YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN HAVING A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN  
OR JUST A GARDEN TO SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITY.**

**June 26<sup>th</sup> 10am -2pm open "house" at all our gardens!** Sign up now for your time slot with your garden leader.

Thanks!  
Annell Hoy  
[annell517@yahoo.com](mailto:annell517@yahoo.com)





**In 2019 Habitat Hero partnered with Colorado State University to provide students with an opportunity to support Habitat Hero's efforts. One of these student projects was to design gardens for climate-threatened birds along the Front Range. Each of the booklets feature plant profiles, a planting diagram, and maintenance tips that will help you plant a garden that will help give birds a fighting chance. Take a look at the samples on the following slides below and download the one that best fits your needs from the links provided at the end of the article.**

**Birds need native plants to survive. By planting a bird-friendly garden, you can help reverse one of the biggest threats birds face: habitat loss. Together we can weave together a landscape that wildlife can live in.**

**Native gardens not only provide food and shelter for birds, they conserve water and eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Filled with color and life, they make our communities healthier and more beautiful. Finally, bird-friendly gardens are places to connect to nature.**



Habitat Hero garden. Photo: Donna Baker

# Bird-Friendly Garden Designs

## Full Sun Home



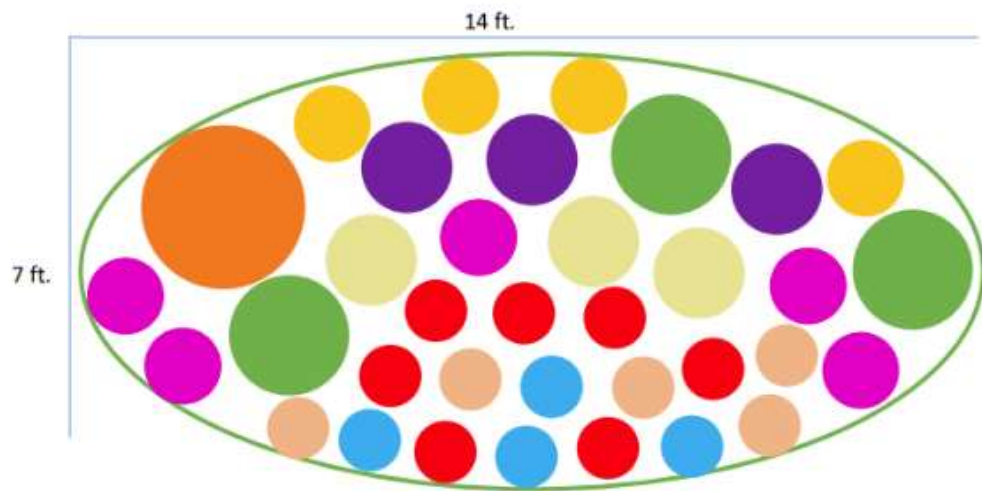
Ideal design for suburban residential areas with under-utilized lawn space.

Audubon | ROCK

# FULL SUN HOME

## Full Sun Home

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Salvia            |  Colorado Blue Columbine |  Bee Balm     |
|  Prairie Sunflower |  Purple Prairie Clover   |  Yarrow       |
|  American Plum     |  Prairie Coneflower      |  Big Bluestem |



# FULL SUN HOME

## Continued

This landscape design is suited for full sun and dry conditions in prairie and foothills ecoregions. These plants are water-wise and range in diversity of color, bloom time and height.

One of the biggest threats birds face is habitat loss. Planting native plants is a simple but powerful way to help birds. Native gardens not only provide food and shelter for, they also conserve water and eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Audubon Rockies's Habitat Hero program provides people, businesses, and cities with the resources to create bird habitat in their own communities.

Learn how you can plant a better world for birds and people at [rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero](http://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero).

### PLANTS



**Salvia**  
(*Salvia divinorum*)  
**May attract** butterflies, native bees, honeybees, bumblebees, hummingbirds



**American Plum**  
(*Prunus americana*)  
**May attract** cardinals, chickadees, jays, mockingbirds, nuthatches, orioles, sparrows, thrushes, vireos, waxwings, warblers, wrens, bees, butterflies



**Purple Prairie Clover**  
(*Dalea purpurea*)  
**May attract** native bees, honey bees, bumblebees, butterflies, seed-eating birds



**Bee Balm** (*Monarda* spp.)  
**May attract** hummingbirds, waxwings, chickadees, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, mockingbirds, nuthatches, orioles, wrens, cardinals, vireos, sparrows, moths, butterflies, and long-



**Big Bluestem**  
(*Andropogon gerardi*)  
**May attract** chickadees, jays, woodpeckers, sparrows, nuthatches, finches, and cardinals



**Prairie Sunflower**  
(*Helianthus petolaris*)  
**May attract** cardinals, chickadees, jays, finches, mockingbirds, nuthatches, orioles, sparrows, thrushes, vireos, waxwings, warblers, wrens, bees, butterflies, moths



**Colorado Blue Columbine**  
(*Aquilegia coerulea*)  
**May attract** hummingbirds, mockingbirds, orioles, sparrows, vireos, waxwings, warblers, hawkmoths, native bees,



**Prairie Coneflower**  
(*Ratibida columnifera*)  
**May attract** nuthatches, warblers, sparrows, waxwings, vireos, mockingbirds, chickadees, cardinals, orioles, woodpeckers, jays, finches, bees, butterflies



**Common Yarrow**  
(*Achillea millefolium*)  
**May attract** waxwings, mockingbirds, orioles, cardinals, chickadees, finches, jays, vireos, woodpeckers, warblers, sparrows, butterflies, bees, moths

### HOW TO

## Easy as 1, 2, 3, BEE!

1. PLANT
  - Place seeds one inch below nutrient rich, moist soil in formation as shown in map on back of brochure. For Zone 5, plant the seeds when the soil temperature reaches 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit (usually early May).
  - Some plants will grow better if seeds are sown indoors first or if the plant is already established so be sure to check instructions on seed packets.
2. FEED
  - Be sure the plants are exposed to full or partial sunlight most of the day.
  - Keep soil moist until germination. Water only when soil looks dry. Watering is minimal after germination so do not overwater.
  - Fertilizer is not necessary as these plants thrive in this eco-region.
3. MAINTAIN
  - Flowers will bloom at different times of the growing season.
  - Maintenance should be minimal.
  - Allow brush piles to form in between plants for habitat and foraging purposes.
4. BEE
  - Sit back and enjoy watching birds, pollinators, and other wildlife take advantage of your bright blooms.
  - Pat yourself on the back for being an environmentally aware and sustainable leader in your community.

All information on pollinators and birds is from USDA and National Audubon Society.

# Bird-Friendly Garden

Designs  
Part Sun Home



Ideal design for suburban residents with under-utilized lawn space

Audubon | ROCKIES

## PART SUN HOME

### Part Sun Home



Rocky Mountain Penstemon



Lupine



Aspen Daisy



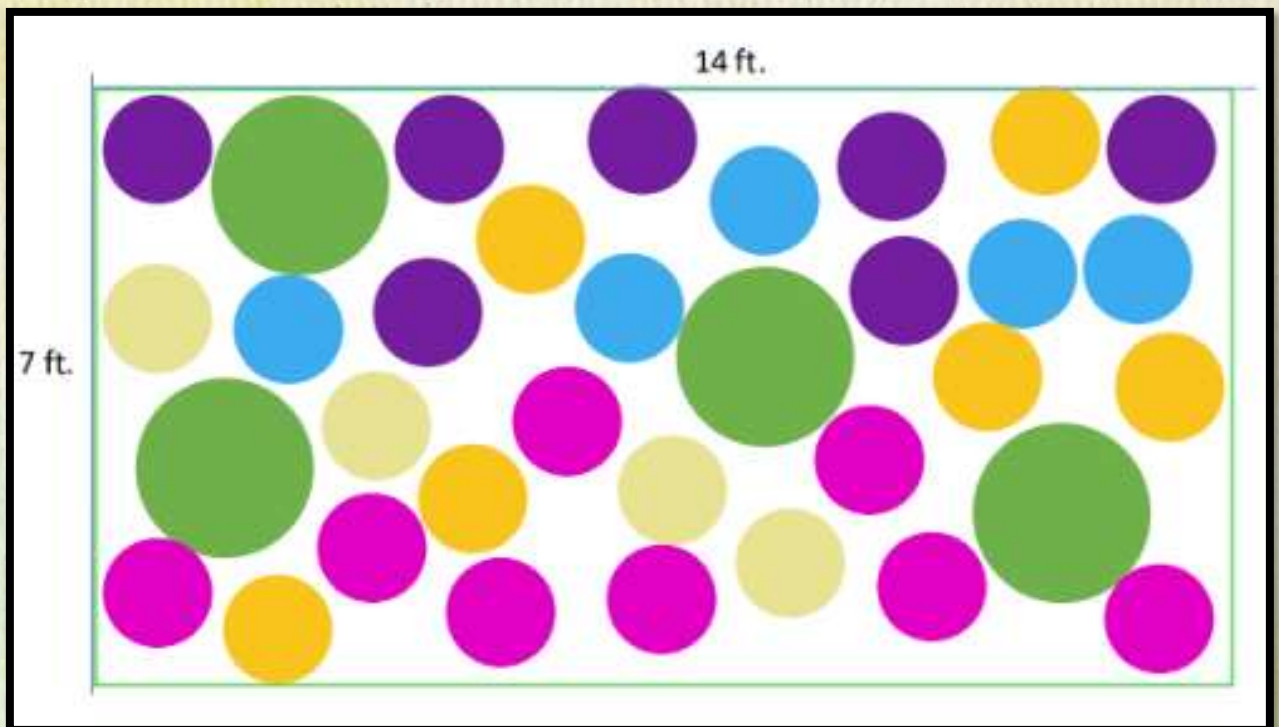
Black Eyed Susan



Desert Four O'clock



Big Bluestem



# PART SUN HOME

## Continued

This landscape design is suited for partial sun and dry conditions in prairie and foothills ecoregions. These plants are water-wise and range in diversity of color, bloom time and height.

One of the biggest threats birds face is habitat loss. Planting native plants is a simple but powerful way to help birds. Native gardens not only provide food and shelter for, they also conserve water and eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Audubon Rockies's Habitat Hero program provides people, businesses, and cities with the resources to create bird habitat in their own communities.

Learn how you can plant a better world for birds and people at [rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero](http://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero).

### PLANTS



**Rocky Mountain Penstemon** (*Penstemon strictus*)  
**May attract** butterflies, native bees, honeybees, bumblebees, hummingbirds

**Black Eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

**May attract** nuthatches, finches, Black-capped chickadees, native bees, honeybees, predatory wasps, butterflies, skippers, moths, flies, beetles,



**Lupine** (*Lupinus*)



**May attract** butterflies, native bees, honeybees, bumblebees, hummingbirds, cardinals, chickadees, jays, mockingbirds, nuthatches, orioles, sparrows, thrushes, vireos, waxwings, warblers, wrens

**Desert Four O'clock** (*Mirabilis multiflora*)

**May attract** primarily hawkmoths, as well as other nocturnal insects, bees, hummingbirds, and quail



**Aspen Daisy** (*Erigeron speciosus*)



**May attract** butterflies, native bees, honeybees, bumblebees, mockingbirds, orioles, sparrows, vireos, waxwings, warblers

**Big Bluestem** (*Andropogon gerardi*)

**May attract** chickadees, jays, woodpeckers, sparrows, nuthatches, finches, and cardinals



### HOW TO

Easy as 1, 2, 3, BEE!

#### 1. PLANT

- Place seeds one inch below nutrient rich, moist soil in formation as shown in map on back of brochure. For Zone 5, plant the seeds when the soil temperature reaches 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit (usually early May).
- Some plants will grow better if seeds are sown indoors first or if the plant is already established so be sure to check instructions on seed packets.

#### 2. FEED

- Be sure the plants are exposed to full or partial sunlight most of the day.
- Keep soil moist until germination. Water only when soil looks dry. Watering is minimal after germination so do not overwater.
- Fertilizer is not necessary as these plants thrive in this eco-region.

#### 3. MAINTAIN

- Flowers will bloom at different times of the growing season.
- Maintenance should be minimal.
- Allow brush piles to form in between plants for habitat and foraging purposes.

#### 4. BEE

- Sit back and enjoy watching birds, pollinators, and other wildlife take advantage of your bright blooms.
- Pat yourself on the back for being an environmentally aware and sustainable leader in your community.

All information on pollinators and birds was taken from USDA and National Audubon Society databases.



# Bird-Friendly Garden Designs

## Sunny Planter Box



Ideal design for individuals  
with limited space or no yard

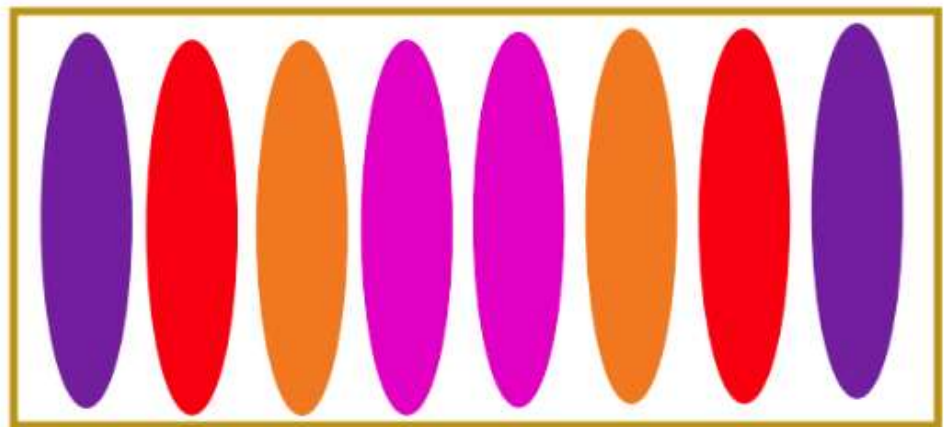
Audubon | ROCKIES

# SUNNY PLANTER BOX OR POT

## Sunny Planter Box

-  Fireweed
-  Black-eyed Susan
-  Bee balm
-  Colorado For O'clock

15 in



36 in

# SUNNY PLANTER BOX OR POT

## Continued

This landscape design is suited for full sun and dry conditions in prairie and foothills ecoregions. Tallest plants are in the center, with decreasing height to the edge.

One of the big threats birds face is habitat loss. Planting native plants is a simple but powerful way to help birds. Native gardens not only provide food and shelter for, they also conserve water and eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Audubon Rockies's Habitat Hero program provides people, businesses, and cities with the resources to create bird habitat in their own communities.

Learn how you can plant a better world for birds and people at [rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero](http://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero).

### PLANTS

#### Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*)



**May attract** long-tongued and short-tongued bees, honey bees, several fly species, beetles, butterflies, hummingbirds,

#### Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

**May attract** nuthatches, finches, Black-capped chickadees, long-tongued and short-tongued bees, honey bees, predatory wasps, butterflies, skippers, moths, flies, beetles, and caterpillars



#### Bee Balm (*Monarda* spp.)



**May attract** hummingbirds, waxwings, chickadees, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, mockingbirds, nuthatches, orioles, wrens, cardinals, vireos, sparrows, moths, butterflies, and long-tongued bees

#### Wild Colorado For O'clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*)

**May attract** primarily hawkmoths, as well as other nocturnal insects, bees, hummingbirds, and quail



### HOW TO

#### Easy as 1, 2, 3, BEE!

##### 1. PLANT

- Place seeds one inch below nutrient rich, moist soil in formation as shown in map on back of brochure. For Zone 5, plant the seeds when the soil temperature reaches 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit (usually early May).

##### 2. FEED

- Be sure the planter is exposed to full or partial sunlight most of the day.
- Keep soil moist until germination (usually within 10 days of planting seeds). Water only when soil looks dry. Watering is minimal after germination, do not overwater.
- Fertilizer is not necessary as these plants thrive in this eco-region.

##### 3. MAINTAIN

- Fireweed and Colorado For O'clock are rapid growing wildflowers so trimming may be necessary as to not overtake planter box.
- Allow Colorado For O'clock to drape over outside of planter box.
- Maintenance should be minimal.

##### 4. BEE

- Sit back and enjoy watching birds, pollinators, and other wildlife take advantage of your bright blooms.
- Pat yourself on the back for being an environmentally aware and sustainable leader in your community.

All information on pollinators and birds is from USDA and National Audubon Society.

# Bird-Friendly Garden Designs

## Partial Sun/Shade Planter Box







Ideal design for individuals with limited space or no yard

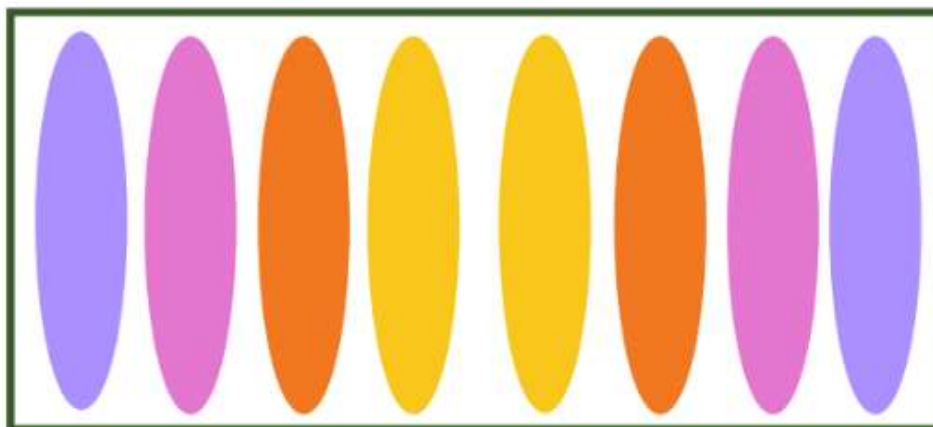
 Audubon | ROCKIES

## PARTIAL SUN PLANTER BOX or POT

### Partial Sun/Shade Planter Box

-  Big Bluestem
-  Purple Coneflower
-  Goldenrod
-  Smooth Blue Aster

15 in



36 in

# PARTIAL SUN PLANTER BOX OR POT

## Continued

This landscape design is suited for partial sun and dry conditions in prairie and foothills ecoregions. Tallest plants are in the center with decreasing height to the edge.

One of the biggest threats birds face is habitat loss. Planting native plants is a simple but powerful way to help birds. Native gardens not only provide food and shelter for, they also conserve water and eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Audubon Rockies's Habitat Hero program provides people, businesses, and cities with the resources to create bird habitat in their own communities.

Learn how you can plant a better world for birds and people at [rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero](http://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero).

### PLANTS

#### Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.)



**May attract** native bees, honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, beetles, flies, nuthatches, mockingbirds, jays, wrens, cardinals, thrushes, sparrows, chickadees, orioles, finches, vireos, and waxwings

#### Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

**May attract** long-tongued bees, butterflies (Fritillaries, Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and Swallowtails), skippers, hummingbirds, jays, finches, nuthatches, thrushes, cardinals, orioles, and sparrows



#### Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*)



**May attract** chickadees, jays, woodpeckers, sparrows, nuthatches, finches, and cardinals

#### Smooth Blue Aster (*Symphotrichum laeve*)

**May attract** native bees, bumblebees, butterflies, caterpillars, chickadees, jays, wrens, waxwings, orioles, warblers, woodpeckers, cardinals, sparrows, thrushes, mockingbirds, nuthatches, vireos, and finches



### HOW TO

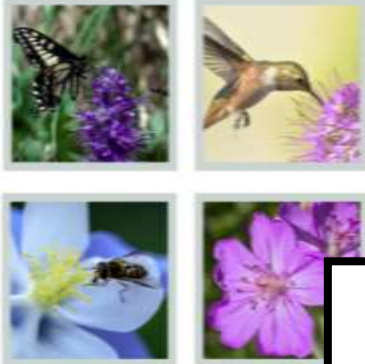
#### Easy as 1, 2, 3, BEE!

1. PLANT
  - Goldenrod, blue aster, and big bluestem seeds should be spread just below the surface of the soil in late fall or early spring.
  - Purple coneflower seed should be planted deep below the soil surface in late fall.
2. FEED
  - Be sure the planter is exposed to partial sunlight most of the day.
  - Keep soil moist starting early spring until germination. Water only when soil looks dry. Watering is minimal. after germination, do not overwater
  - Fertilizer is not necessary as these plants thrive in this eco-region.
3. MAINTAIN
  - Goldenrod and Blue aster are late summer/fall bloomers.
  - Allow aster to spill over outside of planter box.
  - Big bluestem should not be cut lower than 8 inches.
  - Maintenance should be minimal.
4. BEE
  - Sit back and enjoy watching birds, pollinators, and other wildlife take advantage of your bright blooms.
  - Pat yourself on the back for being an environmentally aware and sustainable leader in your community.

All information on pollinators and birds is from USDA and National Audubon Society.

# Bird-Friendly Garden Designs

## Shady Planter Box







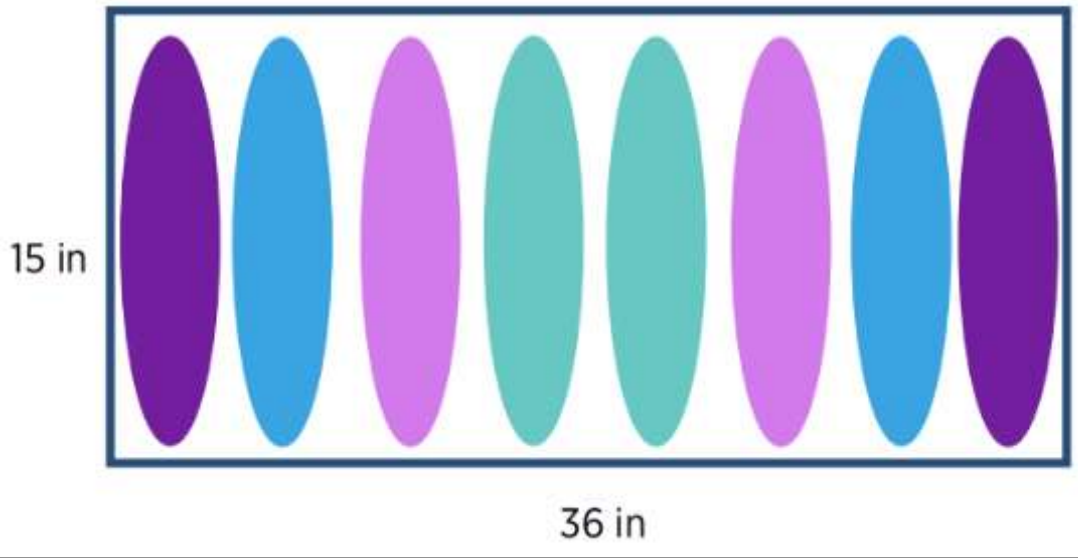
Ideal design for individuals with limited space or no yard



# SHADY PLANTER BOX OR POT

## Shady Planter Box

-  Silky Phacelia
-  Blue Columbine
-  Wand Panic Grass
-  Sticky Purple Geranium



# SHADY PLANTER BOX OR POT

## Continued

This landscape design is suited for shady and dry conditions in prairie and foothills ecoregions. Tallest plants are in the center with decreasing height to the edge.

One of the biggest threats birds face is habitat loss. Planting native plants is a simple but powerful way to help birds. Native gardens not only provide food and shelter for, they also conserve water and eliminate chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Audubon Rockies's Habitat Hero program provides people, businesses, and cities with the resources to create bird habitat in their own communities.

Learn how you can plant a better world for birds and people at [rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero](http://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero).

### PLANTS

**Silky Phacelia** (*Phacelia sericea*)



**May attract** native bees, solitary bees, bumblebees, and butterflies

**Blue Columbine** (*Aquilegia caerulea*)

**May attract** hummingbirds, mockingbirds, orioles, sparrows, vireos, waxwings, warblers, hawkmoths, native bees, and bumblebees



**Sticky Purple Geranium** (*Geranium viscosissimum*)



**May attract** flies, butterflies, and native bees

**Wand Panic Grass** (*Panicum virgatum*)

**May attract** jays, nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, sparrows, cardinals, and finches



### HOW TO

#### Easy as 1, 2, 3, BEE!

#### 1. PLANT

- Scatter seeds over nutrient rich soil in formation shown on the planter map on the back of the brochure. For Zone 5, plant the seeds in late winter/early spring and lightly cover with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of soil/sand mixture.
- Columbine are known to be more successful from seed if sown and germinated indoors prior to planting.

#### 2. FEED

- Be sure the planter is in full or partial shade most of the day.
- Keep soil moist until germination (usually within 5-8 weeks of planting seeds but may take longer). Watering is minimal after germination—once a week.
- Fertilizer is not necessary as these plants thrive in this eco-region.

#### 3. MAINTAIN

- Columbine sometimes do not bloom the same season they are planted, don't let it get you down!
- Allow purple geranium to drape over outside of planter box.
- Maintenance should be minimal.

#### 4. BEE

- Sit back and enjoy watching birds, pollinators, and other wildlife take advantage of your bright blooms.
- Pat yourself on the back for being an environmentally aware and sustainable leader in your community.

All information on pollinators and birds is from USDA and National Audubon Society.



## Habitat Hero gardens...

- Include a diversity of native plants
- Provide seeds, insects, shelter and nesting sites for birds
- Provide nectar, pollen, and host plants for pollinators
- Conserve water because native plants are adapted to their local climate
- Do not rely on the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- Do not spread invasive species of plants

Anyone can become a Habitat Hero, regardless of your gardening abilities. Even people without access to land can create container gardens. Follow the links below to learn more.

[Become a Habitat Hero | Audubon Rockies](#)

[Habitat Hero Application Instructions - YouTube](#)



## ***IT'S TIME TO CLEAN YOUR BLUE BIRD HOUSES!***



Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird. Photo:  
Vicki Jauron/Audubon Photography Awards

### ***HOLE-Y WARS!***

The popularity of bluebirds has been a bonanza for Tree Swallows, which use nest boxes built to the same dimensions. However, since suitable nest sites are usually in short supply, there can be intense competition.

Thoughtful hosts often reduce friction between bluebirds and swallows by setting up two identical nest boxes about 10 feet apart. If bluebirds occupy one box, they'll drive away all other bluebirds, and if swallows occupy the other, they will drive away all other swallows, leaving one pair of each to nest in peace.





***EGC's February's Zoom meeting discussion was a short presentation by each community garden leader about a favorite or thriving perennial in the public garden they are responsible for. Lots of helpful information about the plants was shared. The presentation is available on our website at [www.evergreengardenclub.org](http://www.evergreengardenclub.org)***



***Best Wishes to all of  
our EGC March  
Birthday Boys & Girls!***



# Do you have a gardening question? Or a possible solution to one?

*Perhaps you have a question, or a possible solution to a fellow EGC member's garden issue. Send your questions to me at [louiseheern@gmail.com](mailto:louiseheern@gmail.com) and I will post them in the Wild Iris. If you wish to comment to a question, give feedback or offer solutions that may have worked for you, send those along as well, and I will include them in the following Wild Iris, along with the original question. We look forward to your participation!*

**QUESTION:** From Catherine

I have been wanting to know, so badly, if it is even possible to grow sweet peas up here? I've read everything I can online, and despite my best efforts have had only one or two blooms near the end of August. I am at 8,000 feet in elevation and determined to try!



Please send any gardening questions, comments,  
feedback or solutions to questions to  
[louiseheern@gmail.com](mailto:louiseheern@gmail.com)



**Diet Balance  
Beaujo's  
Java Groove**

**Nellybelle  
Cactus Jack's Saloon & Grill  
Village Gourmet  
Baskin Robins  
David Hanna Coldwell Banker**

**The Evergreen Gallery  
Sundance Landscaping  
Steven Parks Goldsmith &  
Fine Jeweler  
Stems Flower Shop  
Sundance Gardens  
The Holly Berry**



**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO KEEP  
EGC *GROWING* STRONG!**

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING  
FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**EGC PHOTOGRAPHER  
EGC PUBLICITY CHAIR**

**THANK YOU!**

Please Contact Cheri Luke or any of the  
Board Members listed in your directory for  
more information. [cherie7651@gmail.com](mailto:cherie7651@gmail.com)

Please send any questions, corrections, additions, or  
submissions for the Wild Iris to [louisehern@gmail.com](mailto:louisehern@gmail.com)

