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

FOOD: Your habitat needs three of the following types of plants or supplemental feeders:

- ☐ Seeds from a plant
- ☐ Berries
- ☐ Nectar
- ☐ Foliage/Twigs
- ☐ Fruits
- ☐ Sap
- ☐ Pollen
- ☐ Suet
- ☐ Bird Feeder
- ☐ Squirrel Feeder
- ☐ Hummingbird Feeder
- ☐ Butterfly Feeder
- ☐ Nuts

WATER: Your habitat needs one of the following sources to provide clean water for wildlife to drink and bathe:

- ☐ Birdbath
- ☐ Lake
- ☐ Stream
- ☐ Seasonal Pool
- ☐ Ocean
- ☐ Spring
- ☐ River
- ☐ Butterfly Puddling Area
- ☐ Rain Garden
- ☐ Water Garden/Pond

COVER: Wildlife needs at least two places to find shelter from the weather and predators:

- ☐ Wooded Area
- ☐ Bramble Patch
- ☐ Ground Cover
- ☐ Rock Pile or Wall
- ☐ Cave
- ☐ Roosting Box
- ☐ Evergreens
- ☐ Brush or Log Pile
- ☐ Burrow
- ☐ Meadow or Prairie
- ☐ Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- ☐ Water Garden or Pond

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:

- ☐ Mature Trees
- ☐ Meadow or Prairie
- ☐ Nesting Box
- ☐ Wetland
- ☐ Cave
- ☐ Burrow
- ☐ Dead Trees or Snags
- ☐ Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- ☐ Water Garden/Pond
- ☐ Host Plants for Caterpillars

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*:

☐ Soil and Water Conservation:

- *Riparian Buffer*
- *Capture Rain Water from Roof*
- *Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)*
- *Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation*
- *Limit Water Use*
- *Reduce Erosion*
- *Use Mulch*
- *Rain Garden*

☐ Controlling Exotic Species:

- *Practice Integrated Pest Management*
- *Remove Non-Native Plants and Animals*
- *Use Native Plants*
- *Reduce Lawn Areas*

☐ Organic Practices:

- *Eliminate Chemical Pesticides*
- *Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers*
- *Compost*