

Plants that Attract Birds in the Northeast



Common Name	Light Tolerance	Flower Dates	Fruit Availability	Value to Birds	Comments
Eastern Red Cedar	sun	---	Sep-May	food/nest sites/cover	rust
White Oak	sun/lt. shade	---	Sep-Nov	food/nest sites/cover	
Red Oak	sun	---	Sep-Nov	food/nest sites/cover	acorns require 2 years to mature
Chestnut Oak	sun	---	Sep-Nov	food/nest sites/cover	
Black Oak	sun	---	Sep-Nov	food/nest sites/cover	acorns require 2 years to mature
Eastern White Pine	sun	---	Aug-Sep	food/nest sites/cover	
Sugar Maple	sun/pt. shade	---	Sep-Nov	food/nest sites	
Red Maple	sun/shade	---	May-Jul	food/nest sites	
Spruce spp.	sun/lt. shade	---	Aug-Sep	food/nest sites/cover	
Eastern Hemlock	sun/shade	---	Aug-Sep	food/nest sites/cover	
Black Cherry	sun	May-Jun	Aug-Oct	food	poisonous to livestock
Birch spp.	sun/lt. shade	---	Aug-Oct	food/nest cavities	River Birch (<i>B. nigra</i>) grows rapidly
American Mountain-ash	sun	May-Jun	Aug-March	food	fruits high in fat
Flowering Dogwood	sun/pt. shade	May-Jun	Aug-Dec	food	
Red Mulberry	sun	May-Jun	Jun-Jul	food	also called serviceberry or shadbush
Downy Junberry	sun/lt. shade	Apr-Jun?	Jun-Aug	food	England

Crabapple spp.	sun/lt. shade	May	Sep-March	food/nest sites	
Hawthorn spp.	sun	May-Jun	Sep-March	food/nest sites	poisonous to livestock
Fire Cherry	sun/lt. shade	May-Jul	Jul-Oct	food	poisonous to livestock
Choke Cherry	sun/lt. shade	May-Jun	Jul-Sep	food	
Ironwood	sun/pt. shade	Apr	Aug-Oct	food	
Red-panicle Dogwood	sun/pt. shade	Jun-Jul	Aug-Oct	food/nest sites	
Silky Dogwood	sun/lt. shade	May-Jul	Aug-Oct	food/cover	
Red-osier Dogwood	sun	May-Jun	Jul-Sep	food/nest sites	
Alternate-leaf Dogwood	part shade	May-Jul	Jul-Sep	food/cover	
Common Highbush Blueberry	sun	May-Jul	Jul-Sep	food/nest sites	
Common Elderberry	sun/pt. shade	Jun-Jul	Aug-Sep	food/nest sites	
Cranberry Viburnum	sun/lt. shade	May-Jun	Sep-Oct	food	also known as Highbush Cranberry
Northern Arrowwood	sun/lt. shade	May-Jul	Jul-Sep	food/cover	
Nannyberry	sun/lt. shade	May-Jun	Aug-Sep	food/cover	
Canada Honeysuckle	shade	Apr-Jul	Jun-Aug	food	
Swamp Honeysuckle	sun/pt. sun	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	food	fruits high in fat
Common Spicebush	sun/pt. shade	Mar-May	Jul-Sep	food	
Common Winterberry Holly	part shade	Jun-Aug	Sep-Oct	food/nest sites	male and fem. plants required for fruit
Smooth Winterberry Holly	part shade	May-Jul	Sep-Jan.	food/nest sites	male and fem. plants required for fruit
Black Huckleberry	sun/lt. shade	May-Jun	Jul-Sep	food	
Staghorn Sumac	sun	Jun-Jul	Aug-spring	food	fruits persist into winter
Smooth Sumac	sun	Jun-Jul	Aug-spring	food	fruits persist into winter

Brambles:					
Raspberries	sun/pt. shade	Apr-Jul	Jun.- Oct	food/nest sites/cover	
Blackberries	sun/lt. shade	May-Jul	Jul-Sep	food/nest sites/cover	
American Bittersweet	sun/lt. shade	May-Jun	Sep-Dec	food/cover	
Virginia Creeper	sun/shade	Jun-Aug	Aug-Feb	food/cover	
Grape spp.	sun/lt. shade	May-Jul	Sep-Oct	food/nest sites/cover	bark used for nests
Trumpet Creeper	sun	Jul-Sep	Aug-Oct	food (hummingbirds)	England
Evergreen Bearberry	sun	May-Jul	Aug-Dec	food/cover	
Black Crowberry	sun	Jun-Jul	Jul-Nov	food	evergreen
Bunchberry	shade	May-Jul	Aug-Sep	food	transplants well
Common Strawberry	sun/pt. sun	Apr-May	May-Aug	food	
Sources: D. J. Decker and J. W. Kelley; S. W. Kress (1995); L. Martin (1992); J. K. Terres (1994). Common names according to Petrides (1986).					