

Wildlife-Friendly Yard Checklist



Name: _____ Date: _____

Protect the Pollinators

- Plant flowers in your yard for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds to pollinate.
- Try to plant flowers that are native to Alberta. They will help maintain biodiversity and pollinators love them! Find a list of native plants at:
www.edmontonnativeplantgroup.com
- Put up a bee hotel in your yard. Learn more about bee hotels by visiting:
www.ealt.ca/protecting-pollinators
- Don't use pesticides! It's not good for the plants or the insects.
- Leave patches of bare soil in your yard. This gives ground nesting solitary bees a place to lay their eggs. It is hard for them to dig into grassy areas.

Barbed Wire Fences

- Remove fences that no longer serve an important purpose. Removing barriers means that wildlife are less likely to get hurt.
- Add reflectors to fences near water or low visibility areas. This will ensure animals will see the fences, especially if it is barbed wire.
- Repair fences with loose wires. Loose wires could hurt unsuspecting wildlife or even people.
- If possible, modify barbed wire fences to 3 wires, with the top wire no higher than 40" from the ground and the bottom wire 18" from the ground. This will allow large animals to jump over top and small ones to crawl underneath much more safely.

Watching for Wildlife

- Check to see if you have open vertical pipes on your property, and cover the pipe appropriately. Gate posts can be permanently covered with plastic pipe caps, or welded metal scraps.
- Inspect your dryer and stove vents to ensure they have proper coverings. Look for bird nest materials in the fall, removing the fire hazard and then installing proper coverings to prevent future access to birds.
- Install window well covers to prevent wildlife, and even kids, from falling in. Covers are generally designed to still allow light to filter into your basement windows.
- Store outdoor buckets upside down so they don't fill with rain water. Alternatively, place a stick inside a bucket of water so wildlife have a way to climb out.
- Install a screen on your rain barrel to prevent animals from falling in.
- Keep birds safe by keeping your cats indoors. If you do let your cats outside, consider keeping them on a leash or harness, or in an outdoor enclosure.

Windows

- Place bird feeders and baths within one metre or further than ten metres away from windows to stop birds from colliding with them.
- Place decals on large windows so birds can see them. Some stores sell subtle decals that reflect ultraviolet light, which is visible to birds but not to humans.