



Habitat Hero Project

Inspiration and Resources



Thank you for pledging to create, improve and maintain habitat and features in your yard to provide a welcoming and beneficial environment for wildlife.

1. Don't stress about it!
2. Start small if you are new to the concept. Something is better than nothing.
3. Have fun! You are making a difference.

DO

Do plant for pollinators

Plant native "host" and nectar plants.
Host plants are species specific plants that butterflies lay their eggs on.

Do provide a clean water source

Bird baths and bubbling water features are wildlife attractants.

Do maintain a bird feeder(s)

Nectar for hummingbirds.
Seed for songbirds.

Do provide shelter

Various densities of native shrubbery or even a brush pile at the rear of your yard.

Do shrink your lawn.

Lawns are dead zones. Restore life by planting native habitat.

Do plant a native oak tree (or 2)

Oaks support hundreds of caterpillars and beneficial insects. They are home to birds and the insects they feed on.

DON'T

Don't use pesticides

Insects are crucial in a balanced ecosystem as well as a critical food source for wildlife. Find alternative ways to remove destructive bugs in your garden.

Don't plant invasive species

Non-native aggressive plants compete for space, light, water and nutrients.

Don't rake the leaves

Fallen leaves are home to overwintering pollinators. The leaves will decompose and provide nutrients to your lawn.

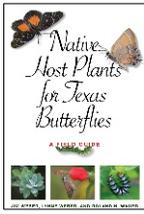
Don't scalp your lawn

Set your mower height no lower than 3". Your lawn will be healthier, require less water and will provide cover for various smaller animals.

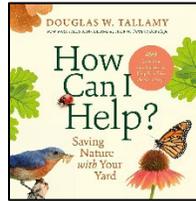
Don't give up

Don't be discouraged if it takes a while to see the fruits of your labor. Build it and they will come!

Recommended Books:

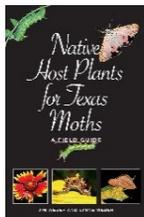


Native Host Plants
for Texas Butterflies
by Myrna and David K. Langford



How Can I Help?
Saving Nature *with* Your Yard
by Douglas W. Tallamy

Everything you need to know about why you should go native and provide wildlife habitat.



Native Host Plants
for Texas Moths
by Myrna and David K. Langford



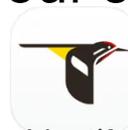
Attracting Birds, Butterflies,
and Other Backyard Wildlife
National Wildlife Federation
by David Mizejewski

A must have!

Must Have apps - Enhance your experience:



- Identify and record your observations of all native living things.
- Contribute to science by sharing your observations.
- Connect with and learn from other nature enthusiasts.



Merlin Bird ID

Identify birds by sight and sound.

Helpful Links:

National Wildlife Federation

[Native Plant Finder](#)

Native Plant Society of Texas

[Native Plant List by Ecoregion](#)

Brazoria County AgriLife Extension

[Creating an Insect & Pollinator Friendly Garden](#)

[Homegrown National Park](#)

Join the HNP community and share your efforts – big or small.

[Texas Master Naturalist Cradle of Texas Chapter](#)

