

TOP KEYSTONE PLANTS FOR BIRDS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA PIEDMONT

These top keystone genera host the insect biomass that is essential for the ecosystem to function. Doug Tallamy, who developed the concept, has written that landscapes without a few species from these genera will have "failed food webs, even if the diversity of other plants is very high." In addition, caterpillars are one of the primary food sources needed for songbirds to raise their nestlings. Please see our website for more information about all the recommended plants for the Piedmont at <https://www.newhopeadubon.org/bird-friendly-certification/native-plants/>. Some of the other recommended plants listed there must be planted in addition to some keystone plants to provide all the necessary vegetative layers and provide plants that provide blooms for pollen and nectar throughout growing season.

Genus name	Common names of some of the species of that genus that are native to the Piedmont of NC	# of caterpillars supported by genus	Recommended for new plantings
Trees			
<i>Quercus</i>	native Oaks (White, Willow, Red, Overcup, Scarlet, Shumard)	488	R
<i>Prunus</i>	Black cherry	362	R
<i>Salix</i>	Black willow	279	R
<i>Betula</i>	River birch	299	R
<i>Acer</i>	Maples (Red, Southern Sugar, Chalk)	254	R
<i>Malus</i>	Flowering crabapple	245	R
<i>Carya</i>	Hickories	242	R
<i>Pinus</i>	Pines (Shortleaf, Virginia, Longleaf)	232	R
<i>Alnus</i>	Tag Alder	168	R
<i>Ulmus</i>	Winged Elm	171	
<i>Crataegus</i>	Hawthorns	138	R
<i>Juglans</i>	Black walnut	136	
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	121	
<i>Fagus</i>	American beech	124	R
<i>Corylus</i>	American hazelnut	104	R
<i>Cornus</i>	native Dogwoods (Flowering, Silky)	101	R
<i>Amelanchier</i>	Serviceberries (Eastern, Downy)	94	R
<i>Ostrya</i>	American Hop-hornbeam	82	R
<i>Carpinus</i>	Ironwood	71	R
<i>Diospyros</i>	American persimmon, Common persimmon	55	R
Shrubs			
<i>Prunus</i>	native Plums (Wild, Chickasaw), Carolina Cherry-laurel	362	R
<i>Vaccinium</i>	native Blueberries (Sparkleberry, Smooth highbush, Deerberry, Rabbit Eye)	237	R
<i>Rubus</i>	Blackberry	140	R
<i>Myrica</i>	Wax myrtle	103	R
<i>Rosa</i>	native Roses (Carolina/Pasture, Swamp)	105	R
<i>Viburnum</i>	Viburnums (Blackhaw, Southern arrowwood, Maple-leaf, Possumhaw, Downy arrowwood)	99	R
<i>Hamamelis</i>	Common witch hazel	68	R
<i>Rhododendron</i>	native Azaleas (Sweet, Flame, Swamp, Pinxterflower)	53	R
<i>Rhus</i>	Sumacs (Smooth, Shining)	53	R
Perennial Flowers			
<i>Solidago</i>	Goldenrods (Rough, Wreath)	102	R
<i>Symphyotrichum</i>	native fall Asters (Eastern aromatic, Smooth blue, Largeflower)	100	R
<i>Helianthus</i>	native Sunflowers (Appalachian, Woodland, Swamp)	64	R
Vines			
<i>Vitis</i>	native Grapes (Muscadine, Fox)	67	R