

Plants useful to birds

By choosing the right plants you can provide both food and cover for garden birds, while maintaining an attractive garden full of wonderful shrubs and trees. Think about where you are going to plant shrubs, making sure that they are right for the growing conditions of your soil. When the fruits and seeds of hedgerow trees and shrubs have all been eaten, many birds will turn to those available in gardens. Although they do not like all varieties, you should be able to attract some winter visitors by maintaining a mixture of plants. Exotic visitors like Redwings and Waxwings delight in feeding upon the berries found in many gardens, so why not see what you can attract to your garden.

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In the column headed 'Type of Tree', 'E' stands for 'evergreen' and 'D' stands for deciduous.

<i>Genus & species/variety</i>	<i>Type of tree</i>	<i>Fruit colour</i>	<i>Approx Height (cm)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	D	crimson	120	Suckering shrub with autumn foliage
<i>Aronia x. prunifolia</i>	D	purple	120	White flowers produced in late spring
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	D	black	90	<i>Aronia</i> may be classified as <i>Photinia</i>
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	E	red	300	Tolerates full shade, dry soil and salt
<i>Berberis acuminata</i>	E	black	200	Shrub or hedge
<i>Berberis aggregata</i>	D	coral	120	Prolific, has pale yellow flowers
<i>Berberis coryi</i>	D	red	100	For small garden
<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	E	blue/black	180	Indispensable, dark orange flowers
<i>Berberis gagnepainii</i>	E	black	125	For small garden or as hedge
<i>Berberis linearifolia</i>	E	orange	200	Has orange/apricot flowers
<i>Berberis prattii</i>	D	red	120	Heavy cropper, yellow flowers
<i>Berberis x. stenophylla</i>	E	red	200	Makes fine thorny hedge
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	D	red	150	red-tinged yellow flowers
<i>B. thunbergii (atropurpurea)</i>	D	red	200	Red/purple foliage
<i>B. verruculosa</i>	E	black	125	Good hedge, golden yellow flowers
<i>B. wilsonae</i>	D	coral pink	150	For smaller garden
<i>B. yunnanensis</i>	D	red	150	Attractive in autumn
<i>Callicarpa bodinieri (giraldii)</i>	D	lilac	150	Plant 2 or 3 to ensure pollination
<i>Coriaria terminalis (xanthocarpa)</i>	D	amber	90	Dies down each winter
<i>Cornus mas</i>	D	red	100	Slow to produce fruit
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	D	black	200	Deciduous, lovely stems in winter
<i>Cotoneaster adpressus</i>	D	red	prostrate	Good on banks, deciduous
<i>Cotoneaster bullatus</i>	D	crimson	300	Shrub or small tree
<i>Cotoneaster buxifolius</i>	E	red	prostrate	For small garden
<i>Cotoneaster conspicuus (decorus)</i>	E	red	50	Free fruiting, for banks
<i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i>	E	coral	prostrate	Ground cover
<i>Cotoneaster divaricatus</i>	D	red	120	Very reliable
<i>Cotoneaster franchetti (sternianus)</i>	E	orange	200	Highly recommended
<i>Cotoneaster frigidus</i>	D	red	300	Fast growing
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	E	red	200	Indispensable for walls
<i>Cotoneaster lacteus</i>	E	red	180	Late; fruit lasts well
<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	semi-E	red	300	Graceful and prolific
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	E	red	300	Screening hedge
<i>Cotoneaster thymifolius</i>	E	red	prostrate	draping walls and banks
<i>Cotoneaster watereri</i>	semi-E	red	300	A hybrid; several forms
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	D	red	500	Common Hawthorn
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	D	red	80	Require heavy soil, good on chalk
<i>Daphne mezereum (alba)</i>	D	yellow	80	Creamy-white flowered form
<i>Gaultheriaria procumbens</i>	E	red	10	Ground cover; acid soils
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	E	red/brown	50	Rampant cover; sun or shade

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<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	D	orange	200	Sea Buckthorn
<i>Ilex altaclarensis</i> 'Golden King'	E	red	indefinite	Compact female shrub
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 'Pyramidalis'	E	red	indefinite	Upright female shrub
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	E	black	300	Female plant required
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	E	black	250	Avoid <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>
<i>Lonicera henryi</i>	E	black	-	Climber, provides good nesting sites
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	D	red	-	Native honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera pileata</i>	semi-E	violet	150	Shrub; good in shade
<i>Mahonia japonica</i> (Bealei)	E	black	200	has blue-green leaves
<i>Malus</i> 'Golden Hornet'	D	yellow	500+	All <i>Malus</i> make ideal small trees
<i>Malus</i> 'John Downie'	D	red/yellow	500	Narrow upright tree, white flowers
<i>Malus</i> 'Red Sentinel'	D	red	500	Broadly upright tree, white flowers
<i>Malus</i> 'Wisley'	D	crimson	500	Rounded tree, purple-red flowers
<i>Photinia villosa</i>	D	red	300	Small tree for acid soils
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> 'Otto Luyken'	E	black	125	Attractive very compact laurel
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	D	black	500	Sloe, Best as impenetrable hedge
<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	E	orange	400	North walls, hedge or shrub.
<i>Pyracantha atalantiodes</i>	E	scarlet	500	Small white flowers
<i>Pyracantha</i> 'Orange Glow'	E	orange	500	Probably a cultivar of <i>P. fortuneana</i>
<i>Pyracantha rogersiana</i> 'Flava'	E	yellow	400	Spreading shrub
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	D	black	400	Buckthorn, does well on chalk
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	D	black	600+	Common Elder, all birds love it
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	D	red	400	Flourishes in bleak areas
<i>Sarcococca hookerana</i> (digyna)	E	black	40	Ground cover
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	D	orange/red	500+	Whitebeam, good on chalk
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	D	red	800	Rowan, many varieties, all good
<i>Sorbus</i> 'Joseph Rock'	D	amber	800	outstanding tree of uncertain origin
<i>Sorbus sargentiana</i>	D	red	800	improvement on the mountain ash
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	D	black	150	Acid soils only
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	E	red	15	Acid soil; ground cover
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	D	black	200	Wayfaring Tree, good on chalk
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	D	red	200	Guelder rose, vigorous
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> 'Brandt'	D	purple	-	Hardy hybrid grapevine

Note all *Berberis* and *Cotoneaster* will flourish on any garden soil, and being unaffected by salt-laden winds are excellent seaside shrubs.

There are over 80 varieties of Cypress ranging from tiny dwarfs of under 50cm when fully-grown to giant trees. With the exception of true dwarfs, all are useful as roosting and nesting places and as windbreaks in cold areas. Any nursery will be able to offer a wide variety. In addition there are a number of trees and shrubs which are useful for reasons other than for the fruit which they provide. They are:

<i>Genus & species/variety</i>	<i>Type of tree</i>	<i>Approx Height (cm)</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Escallonia</i> (numerous varieties)	E	150	Excellent seaside shrubs
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	E	400	North wall shrub for early nesting thrushes
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	E		All varieties tough, good on chalk or by the sea
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	E		Front-line seaside windbreak
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	E		Useful on coast, though tender inland
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	E		Can be clipped as a hedge around coastal gardens
<i>Salix caprea</i>	D	400	Early spring flowers attract insects
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	D		Seaside cover, attractive to migrants

Note No height is given for seaside trees since the amount of wind which they have to tolerate is usually the controlling factor.

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