



## **GREAT PLANTS FOR IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT:**

Here is just a partial list of some of the plants we are using and how they will impact wildlife:

**White spruce** – excellent plant to make an open area bird friendly, providing protection, then nesting habitat, and finally a great winter food sources for white-winged and red crossbills, purple finches, red squirrels.

**Eastern hemlock** – a preferred food source for American goldfinch, boreal chickadee, ruffed grouse, pine siskin and red-winged and white-winged crossbills. Many other species of birds and mammals also eat the seeds, and snowshoe hare browse young shoots. Hemlocks will also offer great cover and protection for both small and large birds. Large, old hemlock are used by raccoon for dens and provide cavities and nesting sites for a wide variety of birds.

**White pine** – pine seeds are a prime winter food for the squirrel family due to their high protein content. The crossbills, purple finches and pine siskins also make good use of this tree as a food source and eventually it will become one of our more important nesting trees, especially for large birds such as bald eagles.

**Eastern white cedar** - the seeds are a preferred food for pine siskins and are eaten by a grosbeaks, redpolls, crossbills, and other species of birds and small mammals. But it is as protection and cover that cedar excels, since smaller birds can find solace from both winter winds and predators within the dense branches.

**Red oak** - Snowshoe hare love to browse oak and all members of the squirrel family feast on the acorns. As well, blue jays, grackles, woodpeckers, ruffed grouse and many other birds and small mammals favour acorns, making red oak one of our most important wildlife trees.



**Yellow birch** - birch seed is an important food source for many winter birds, including American goldfinch, pine siskin, northern junco, blue jay, and the chickadees and sparrows. Birches regularly produce heavy crops of seed and larger trees can be quite important to local populations. While the seed is important for wildlife (including small mammals), the trees are used in many other ways. Ruffed grouse can often be found in birch trees during the winter eating the buds, and snowshoe hares browse the twigs. In spring, birch flowers attract many insects, which in turn attract large numbers of migrating warblers.

**Striped maple** - the young twigs are browsed by snowshoe hare, while red squirrels, chipmunks and ruffed grouse eat the seeds. Striped maple are also very useful to wildlife in that they help diversify the vertical profile of a forest, adding to the dense layers in a woodland that are attractive to many wildlife species for nesting, feeding and perching.

**White ash** - the seeds are an important food source for red-winged blackbird, evening grosbeak, pine grosbeak, purple finch and other birds.

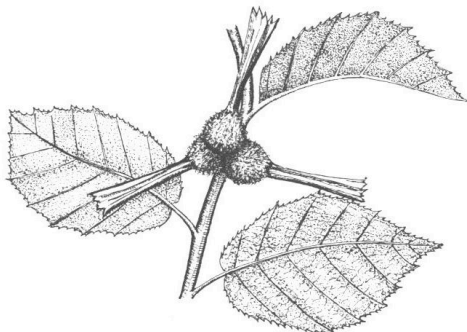
**Chokecherry** - fruits are a preferred food for ruffed grouse, pileated woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, eastern kingbird, common crow, gray catbird, American robin, wood thrush, Swainson's thrush, gray-cheeked thrush, eastern bluebird, cedar waxwing, rose-breasted grosbeak and evening grosbeak. Dozens of other bird species utilize the fruit to a lesser degree, as do many small mammals. In winter and spring, red fox, skunk, chipmunk and snowshoe hare browse twigs and buds..

**American mountain ash, wild rose, highbush cranberry and winterberry holly** – all great plants to attract winter birds that eat fruit, such as cedar and bohemian waxwings, American robins and pine grosbeaks.

**Serviceberry** - one of the most important food sources for birds, especially those fattening up for fall migration. Berries are a preferred food of northern flicker, blue jay, American crow, gray catbird, American robin, hermit thrush, Swainson's thrush, veery, Bohemian waxwing, cedar waxwing, American redstart, northern oriole and evening grosbeak and eaten by over 30 other species. Red squirrel, chipmunk, flying squirrel and red fox are also fond of the fruit, while in

winter the twigs and buds are browsed by snowshoe hare and red fox. Ruffed grouse also eat the buds in winter.

Serviceberry's early flowering in spring makes it an important initial source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects.



**Beaked hazelnut** – an excellent source of protein highly attractive to all members of the squirrel family, as well as crows and jays.

**Bayberry** – an critical food source for yellow-rumped warblers on both their spring and fall migrations, but are also extensively used by evening grosbeaks, crows, grackles and starlings.

**Common elder** - berries are a preferred food of blue jay, northern mockingbird, gray catbird, American robin, wood thrush, Swainson's thrush, gray-cheeked thrush, veery, cedar waxwing, rose-breasted grosbeak and white-throated sparrow, and are eaten by dozens of other species. The shrub provides good cover, and is used as a nesting site by alder flycatcher, yellow warbler and American goldfinch. In winter, snowshoe hare and other mammals browse the twigs and buds.

