7 KEY COMPONENTS HABITAT AT HOME

1 LOCALLY APPROPRIATE PLANTS GROWN WITHOUT PESTICIDES

Sonoran Desert and Sky Island Natives, regional and desert-adapted plants, appropriate non-natives

Patch: a dense group of at least 5–7 individuals of at least 2 locally-appropriate wildlife plant species grouped together

Diverse Patches: at least 3 patches of different locally-appropriate wildlife plants that provide nectar, fruit, seed, and nesting/cover for birds and pollinators.

Bio-rich: a dedicated model of home-scale habitat.

· Include nectar, fruit, seed, and nesting/cover benefits. Plants strategically picked to provide blooms throughout the year.

2 VEGETATION LAYERS

Understory: vegetation less than 3 feet high
Midstory: shrubs and low tree limbs, 3–7 feet off the ground
Canopy: tree canopy about 7+ feet off the ground

3 REMOVE INVASIVES AND KNOW THE BENEFICIAL VOLUNTEERS

Level 1: Learn to identify and remove the most dangerous invasive plants in our area
Remove: buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*), fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), stinknet/globe chamomile (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*)

Level 2: Continue to learn and remove invasive plant species
Remove: Russian thistle/tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*), Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*)

Level 3: Learn to identify the native, beneficial "volunteers" (see list at tucsonaudubon.org/habitat)
Remove: London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*), puncturevine/caltrop/goathead (*Tribulus terrestris*), *Matthiola parviflora*

Level 4: Remove: bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), saltcedar/tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), African sumac (*Rhus lancea*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*)

4 WATER FOR WILDLIFE

Static: mechanism-free, require regular maintenance
Examples: dish of water; bird waterer; shallow, rock-filled water dish for bees; puddler or mud for butterflies

Moving: add water movement
Examples: irrigation drip into basin/dish; mister set on timer for hummingbirds; solar water pump added to bird bath; in-ground circulating pond; boulder fountain (resembles natural stone and are easy to install)

5 WATER FOR HABITAT

Simple: simple strategies that capture rainwater
Examples: Earthworks (contouring the land to slow, spread, and direct rainwater into the ground and surrounding plants); simple depressions; basins and berms; rain barrels placed under scuppers; drip-line buckets; reduction or removal of impervious surfaces; direct rainwater runoff from adjoining hardscapes to nearby earthworks and their plantings

Advanced: advanced (or active) water-harvesting utilizes rain barrels, cisterns, and other containers to store rainwater for later distribution
Examples: capture roof runoff in tank to hold at least 25% of roof's annual rainfall and direct its overflow to earthworks/water-loving plants; install gutters that lead runoff into collecting basin/earthworks/plants; curb cuts/curb cores to harvest rainwater from street; gray-water use

300 E. University Blvd. #120, Tucson, AZ 85705
520-617-4471
habitat@tucsonaudubon.org
tucsonaudubon.org/habitat

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6 HOMES IN HABITAT

Bird nestboxes: Lucy's warbler; flycatcher; kestrel/screech-owl

Homes for others: nestbox for cavity-nesting native bees; recycle pithy stems such as agave, sotol, and hesperaloe stalks for cavity-nesting bees; leave a patch of bare ground for ground-nesting native bees; 4-chamber or rocket box for bats; rock pile for lizards; brush pile; mulch made from leaf/seed litter and pruning's cut into smaller pieces (less than 6 inches long and 3/4 inch in diameter) within basins and earthworks for insect nesting sites

Safely keep dead snags/trees for birds, bees, bats.

*Find plans and directions on our website. Also available to purchase though our Nature Shop.

7 REDUCE HAZARDS

Reduce Hazards: keep cats indoors; prevent window strikes; protect the night sky by limiting outdoor lighting and utilizing dark sky compliant lighting; reduce insecticide & herbicide use, eliminate rodenticide use

Eliminate Hazards: Eliminate insecticide, herbicide, and rodenticide use; eliminate the use of plastic underlay as a method to control weeds

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