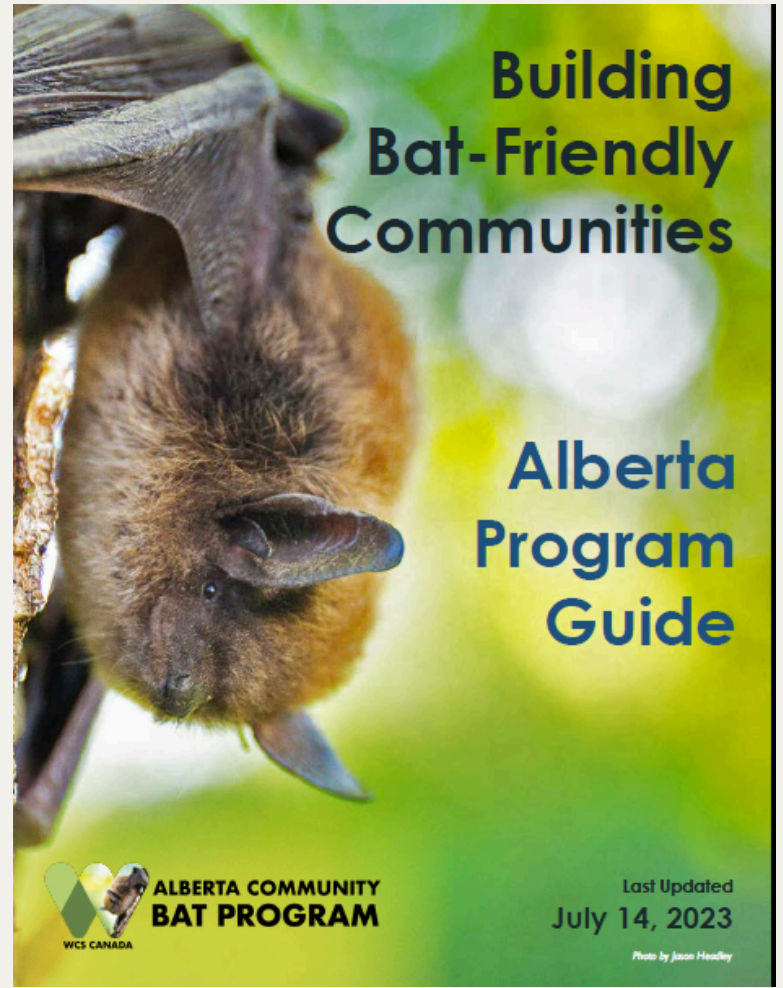


# THE ROOST REPORT

## Bats, Birds, Bugs, and Biodiversity: Why Native Plants Matter

Biodiversity thrives when habitats are rich, diverse, and connected. Insects play a critical role in these ecosystems, acting as a food source for birds and bats. But without native plants, many insects fail to thrive. Native plants provide habitat for insect eggs and caterpillars. Monarch Butterflies have been given a recent boost because of a concerted effort by the public to plant milkweed – an essential host plant for this species. By managing our landscapes to support insects, we help sustain the entire food web, from birds feeding their chicks to bats controlling insect populations at night.



## The Importance of Native Plants

- Native plants have co-evolved with local insects, providing essential food and habitat.
- Many butterflies and moths lay eggs only on specific native plants, ensuring caterpillar survival.
- Non-native ornamental plants often do not support the same diversity of insects.
- More insects mean more food for birds, bats, and other wildlife, supporting a thriving ecosystem.

**Building Bat Friendly Communities Guidebook**

[www.albertabats.ca/resources](http://www.albertabats.ca/resources)  
\*see Appendix 1 for suggested native plant species lists



# BAT-FRIENDLY GARDENING

 **BE A BUG FARMER!** 



# THE ROOST REPORT

## Habitat Heterogeneity: Why Variety Matters

- A mix of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses creates diverse microhabitats.
- Structural diversity supports more insect species, increasing food availability for birds and bats.
- Leaving some natural areas undisturbed provides shelter and nesting sites.
- Suburban and municipal landscapes can be designed with biodiversity in mind, integrating wildflower gardens, tree canopies, and hedgerows.

## How to Support Bats

### What You Can Do:

- **Plant Native** - Choose regionally native plants for your garden and landscaping.
- **Reduce Pesticides** - Limit or eliminate pesticide use to protect insect populations.
- **Leave the Leaves** - Allow leaf litter to remain on the ground to provide insect habitat.
- **Maintain Wetlands** - Advocate for wetland conservation and protect natural water sources.
- **Grow Wildflower Patches** - Support pollinators and beneficial insects by planting wildflowers.
- **Create Bat and Bird Habitat** - Install bat houses and bird boxes to provide roosting and nesting spaces.
- **Support Local Conservation Efforts** - Engage with community groups focused on habitat restoration.



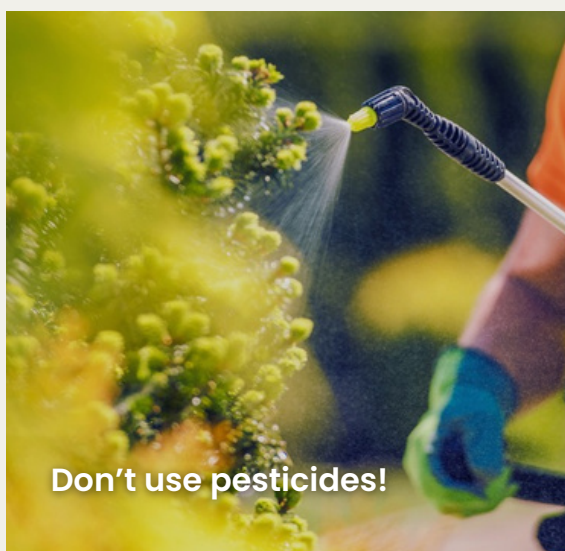
Choose native plant species!



Plant native tree species!



Plant native shrub species!



Don't use pesticides!



Cori Lausen/Long-eared Myotis



Plant native plants (be a bug farmer!)