

# BAT - FRIENDLY GARDENING IN THE OKANAGAN



## The Okanagan is the luckiest region when it comes to bats!

We have the highest diversity of bats compared to the rest of the province. As many as 15 bat species call this area home!



## Safety first

- Keep cats indoors to prevent predation on bats and other wildlife.
- Keep your garden naturally dark at night. Turn the outdoor lights off. Use warm light bulbs.
- If you are ever concerned or find an injured bat, contact the BC Community Bat Program.

## Bats LOVE insects

Every night, bats work hard to control insect populations, benefitting us and protecting agriculture from pests. **One little bat can eat 600 mosquitoes in just one hour!** Can you imagine how many insects a group of bats can catch overnight?



## Like all wildlife, bats need food, water, and shelter to survive

A small pond or a riparian area is a great source of food and shelter for bats.

- Build a pond that is at least 3m in diameter.
- Help restore riparian areas with natural vegetation.

## Organic gardening

Pesticides and chemical fertilizers kill insects and poison wildlife.



- Your garden benefits from the nitrogen-rich guano of local bats. Remember, to help prevent the spread of White-nose Syndrome, do not transport the guano off-site.
- Do not apply pesticides, insecticides and other harmful chemicals in your garden.
- Try composting to provide organic nutrients in your garden.

## Cozy homes for roosting bats

Bats often roost under the tree bark, in tree hollows and cavities, wood piles, in old sheds and attics, as well as under roofing or siding of some buildings.



## Moonlight gardening

Bats are nocturnal, they are active at night feeding on insects like moths, beetles and mosquitoes.

- Flowers that stay open through the night attract nocturnal insects.
- White or pale-coloured flowers can be easily seen by bats at night.
- Moonlight is ideal for bats! Turn off porch lights at night to prevent light pollution.



- Keep dead-standing trees (*if it is safe to do so*) and mature trees in your yard to provide roosting areas for hard-working bats. Loose tree bark and bark crevices also make great homes for bats.
- Consider building a bat house or a bat condo! Learn more about bat boxes on BC Community Bat Program website.



# A LIST OF NATIVE OKANAGAN PLANTS FOR YOUR BAT - FRIENDLY GARDEN

Plant a variety of indigenous Okanagan flowers, perennials, shrubs and trees to support local bats, nighttime insect pollinators and overall biodiversity in your garden. See the examples below.

## Flowers

- Canada Goldenrod
- Showy Milkweed
- Moss Campion
- Spreading Phlox
- Evening Primrose
- Shrubby Penstemon
- Common Yarrow
- Desert Yellow Fleabane
- Showy Fleabane
- Sticky Geranium

## Trees

- Mountain Ash
- Water Birch
- Paper Birch
- Trembling Aspen
- Black Cottonwood
- Douglas Maple
- Ponderosa Pine
- Dead tree snags (if safe to keep)

## Shrubs

- Saskatoon
- Waxy or Sticky Currant
- Chokecherry
- Red Raspberry
- Prickly Rose, Nootka Rose
- Mock orange
- Big Sagebrush
- Orange Honeysuckle
- Red-osier Dogwood

## Okanagan Nurseries

- Wild Bloom Nursery Kelowna

- XEN Xeriscape Endemic Nursery and Ecological Solutions - West Kelowna

- Sagebrush Nursery Oliver



Moss campion



Phlox



Goldenrod



Milkweed



Mock orange



Primrose



Chokecherry



Wild rose

Learn more on [bcbats.ca](http://bcbats.ca) or email us at [okanaganbats@gmail.com](mailto:okanaganbats@gmail.com).



BC Bat-friendly  
Communities Guide  
Appendix B: Plant List



Bats Education Ecological  
Protection Society

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