

County Agent News
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Winter Landscaping

Winter landscapes are homes in North Dakota does not have to be dull and blah. For long term landscaping like planting trees and shrubs you can consider evergreens with various shades of green and blue green of course. However, you can also think about shrubs and deciduous trees which have varying colors and textures of bark. Many trees and shrubs will have colorful berries which can hang on well into the winter season off color and attracting many varieties of birds.



Many different birds call North Dakota home through the winter and you can attract many of them to various back yard feeders. One bird appearing in the state in recent years is the



Source: www.ag.ndsu.edu

Cardinal! The showy red males and subtle reds, tans, and grays of the female have been considered a southern bird. While most commonly seen along the Red River in North Dakota, these beautiful birds have also been seen in Minot and other western cities. They have been documented as far north and west as Calgary, and Regina. This would suggest that we may certainly spot them in Bowbells, Flaxton, or Powers Lake.

A backyard (or front yard) bird feeder can help attract these and other interesting birds to your yard. Suet feeders are great for attracting Downy Woodpeckers. Bulk seed feeding stations should be filled with a mix of seeds. Cardinals especially like black oil type sunflowers. These seeds have a high energy density which is great for many overwintering bird species.

Cardinals do not migrate. Although they wander in winter, seldom do they fly more than a few miles from their nest. Since cardinals do not migrate, the planting of an inviting landscape can attract a cardinal family to your yard for years.

Cardinals prefer to nest in shrubbery and low trees that face open ground. They are attracted to plants that are useful for food and nesting. Such plants include hawthorn, viburnum, raspberry, elderberry, cherry, dogwood, and sumac.