

CREATE A BRUSH PILE IN YOUR YARD

Wildlife needs cover for protection against the elements and predators. Different species have different cover requirements. The ideal wildlife habitat area will include plants ranging in size and density from ground cover to tall, mature trees, and include both evergreen and deciduous species. Densely branched shrubs, hollow logs, rock piles, stone walls, evergreens, grasses and water also provide cover for many species. Creating a brush pile is another option.

A well structured brush pile is easy to create and can result in a unique ecosystem for your yard. Find a remote corner to build your brush pile away from traffic areas. Start by stacking larger tree limbs crosswise. Continue to build the brush pile to at least five feet across and three to five feet high using twiggy branches, broadleaf evergreen trimmings, woody plant trimmings, dry grasses, etc.. Let vines and grass grow up around the pile to enhance its appearance and give residents some privacy.

If you build it, they will come! This unique habitat can host a wide variety of insects, frogs, toads, lizards and snakes as well as small mammals and birds. Once established, the brush pile should not be disturbed. A word of caution: Children should be taught to deal with the brush pile and its inhabitants safely. Observation from a reasonable distance is the best way to enjoy the wild residents of the brush pile.

