

Akron Zoo

Four of twenty graphic panels that discuss various aspects and functions of gardens in an exhibit directed at children.

Trees & Plants

in the Garden

Why do we need trees? Trees provide food and habitat for lots of animals.

Leaves
Leaves are the easiest way to identify a tree. They stay on trees for much of the year, and evergreens have their needles year round. Fall leaf color is helpful in identifying trees in the fall.

The shape of a leaf, the texture and the way it grows all help us identify the plants and trees listed here.



Buckeye Oak Crabapple White pine Maple Hemlock

Use of Gardens

Beauty In Nature
Gardens come in all shapes and sizes. In a garden, you might find flowers, shaped topiaries, edible plants and shade trees. People create beautiful gardens for relaxation, to grow food, or as a place for wildlife. Whatever the reason, gardens add beauty to our world and encourage people to interact with nature.


Do you have a garden at your house? If not, you can create a garden anywhere! Start a window box garden with a few of your favorite flowers if you don't have a lot of space.



Insects

in the Garden

Pollinators
Bees and butterflies are two examples of insects that help pollinate flowering plants. These busy insects fly from flower to flower sucking up nectar for food. When bees and butterflies land on a flower, the tiny hairs on their legs collect pollen from the flower. The transfer of pollen from flower to insect, and back again, makes it possible for seeds to form and new plants to grow.



Weather

in the Garden

Autumn
Autumn means lots of color. The green leaves begin to turn yellow, orange and red. To get ready for winter, a tree no longer sends food to its leaves through its "veins". A tree will begin to store the food and water in its trunk and roots to prepare for the cold winter months. The leaves that fall to the ground decompose returning rich nutrients to the soil.

