



## Create a Backyard Wildlife

### Habitat Brush Pile

Create a backyard habitat for wild animals with a backyard brush pile! Dense cover benefits wildlife by providing:

- ...A place to hide from predators,
- ...A place to seek shelter from bad weather
- ...A place for ground nesters to nest
- ...A place in winter to find hiding places once leaves are gone.
- ...A habitat for all strands of the ecosystem web -- good microbes, insects, fungi, birds, and mammals

### Placement

- 1) Choose an area with good drainage, near a forest edge, along a stream or at the back edge of a property, close to existing food sources. Isolated piles are not likely to be used, so create three to four different piles per acre.
- 2) Ideal piles are 4-8 feet tall and 10-20 feet in diameter.
- 3) Brush piles are flammable, so don't build them near buildings or under trees.
- 4) After a few years of decay, check to see if a new brush pile should be started. Leave the old piles to further compost which attracts more insects, and thus, more birds.

## How to Create a Great Brush Pile

### *Method 1: Log Cabin Pallet Style*

Stack two to three layers of six-inch diameter logs at right angles to each other, log-cabin style, in a square. Logs should be about six feet long and placed about 10" apart between layers. Several tree stumps or 12-inch rocks can also act as pallet bases. Stack layers of vegetation stalks, Christmas trees, limbs, leaves, and twigs on top in layers.

### *Method 2: Teepee Style*

Use about eight six-to-eight foot untrimmed branches arranged in teepee fashion, either standing alone or over a tree stump. Lean smaller brush against the "teepee" frame, leaving some open space in the center. Dump leaves and small debris over the whole cone.

