

ask Sam

This column features questions from Wyoming landowners that were submitted via our Web site. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit BarnyardsandBackyards.com. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards & Backyards*!



“Can’t you have an attractive landscape that is just as wildlife friendly as a messy landscape?” *Robert – Laramie, WY*



Robert,

Here is the answer! MAYBE. The underlying premise here is that the creation of an environment which will be attractive to a diverse array of wildlife will NOT conform to the paradigm we have for the typical suburban landscape, i.e., manicured lawn, hedged shrubbery, and a bed of dahlias. Depending upon your wildlife objectives, one might have a few wildlife-oriented additions that can be orderly and attractive – or your wildlife objectives might require a number of features which don’t lend themselves to the paradigm. These additions may or may not be “well kept” but certainly could single one out in the neighborhood. The amount of habitat diversity required to meet your wildlife objectives is the factor that will govern your departure from the stereotypic suburban homescape. *Sam*

This question is a follow-up to “Planting for Backyard Wildlife” published in the fall issue.