Snags

Today on Gardening in a Minute: snags.

“Snag” is just a colorful name for a dead or dying tree.

Snags are important for many different kinds of wildlife. They’re useful to birds that nest in tree cavities, including owls, chickadees, and bluebirds. And some species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians use them, too.

Snags provide food as well as shelter. Woodpeckers and other small birds feed on the insects that live in snags, and birds of prey often use snags as hunting and nesting perches.

Snags are produced by fire, lightning, and other natural events. But you can also contribute a snag to the ecosystem.

If you’re planning to remove a tree from your property, instead of cutting it to the ground completely, consider leaving a ten- to fifteen-foot stump for wildlife to use.

For more information about snags and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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