

Protecting Wildlife for the Future

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on the address below. - free - contact The Wildlife Trusts Where to buy peat-free products leaflet

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its website. www.wildaboutgardens.org gardening information and advice on Horticultural Society, provides wildlife Trusts' partnership with the Royal Wild About Gardens, The Wildlife

sources of additional information, suppliers and further reading. Once you have begun you might get hooked, so below are some suggested This leaflet is intended as a simple guide to get you started on wildlife gardening. Help and advice

movement and beauty to your garden. a go and watch as wildlife brings colour, for your health and wellbeing. So give it By contrast, gardening can be good

oe making our cities and towns even trend can result in flooding and could creatures of their habitat, this worrying more popular. As well as depriving over them completely - becomes ever and deck back gardens - or even build as the trend to pave over front gardens threat. Green gardens are in decline too But it's not just wildlife that's under

more will feel the benefits. for wildlife, these creatures and many if we manage our gardens sympathetically

Handy hints for the wildlife gardener

• Resist the urge to tidy up in autumn!

Seed heads left uncut will treat seed-

eating birds to a free feast. Plant stems

and leaves are a great place for creepy

crawlies to shelter, and perennials left

standing will help overwintering

insects such as ladybirds.

are all declining species in the UK, but sparrows, song thrushes and stag beetles big difference to wildlife. Hedgehogs, the way they are managed can make a estimated 16 million gardens in the UK, vast living landscape; and with an So together, our gardens represent a

the wider countryside. green spaces with nature reserves and they form a patchwork linking urban garden on its own may be small, together made up of gardens, so although each Up to a quarter of a city's area can be

and climate change takes its toll. wider countryside shrink and fragment, havens for wildlife as habitats in the Gardens are increasingly important Every garden provides a vital link for wildlife

• Slugs are part of the garden's cycle

hedgehogs. If slugs or snails are a

of wildlife, eaten by frogs, toads and

problem to your tender plants, avoid

using slug pellets based on metaldehyde

or methiocarb. Investigate alternative

methods to control them - for example

Amphibious

bistort



Make room for wildlife... and feel the benefits

Wildlife-friendly gardening is about making a haven for you as well as for wildlife. By gardening sympathetically for wildlife you'll be rewarded by a truly natural outdoor space where you can get in touch with the plants, animals and birds that make their home there

Yellow

The essentials of successful wildlife gardening are based on four things; trees, deadwood, water and variety of planting. Any one of these features will encourage wildlife to your

Dragonfly

garden and help it to thrive there. The more of these features your garden contains, the greater the number and variety of animal species using the garden will be.





Common water plants suitable for small garden ponds Plants for the shallows and ledges include yellow flag iris, water forgetme-not, water plaintain, branched bur-reed and arrowhead.

Floating leaved plants include the fringed water-lily, water soldier and

Plants that thrive in deeper water include plant hornwort, water crowfoot, common water starwort, spiked water-milfoil, curled pondweed and

For the edge of the pond, or if you have any marshy areas try meadowsweet, purple loosestrife, lady's smock, gipsywort, ragged robin, marsh marigold, brooklime, rushes and sedge.

But please avoid the following invasive plants:

Great diving beetle

Pond skater

Whirligig

Australian swamp stonecrop, curly water weed, floating pennywort, parrot's feather, water fern, water primrose and Canadian pondweed; these will soon take over.

pellets based on ferrous phosphate, or

products that create barriers to slugs and

snails such as copper bands or gritty sand.

• Diluted household detergent is effective

against greenfly and blackfly, and is

thought not to harm other insects.

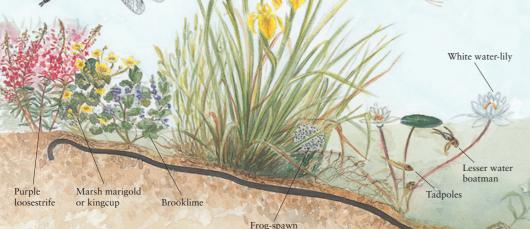
- Top tips for greening your garden • Choose local seeds and plants that are suitable for your soil. Your local Wildlife Trust can advise you.
- Wild flowers belong in the wild before buying, check plants, seeds and bulbs are labelled as being from cultivated stock
- Save water. Install water butts under down pipes outside your house.
- Mulch your borders in spring to keep your soil moist in hot weather. Mulch them again in autumn to help absorb heavy winter rain and prevent flooding.

Common frog

Aquatic snail

Yellow

water-lilv



Build a pond in your garden and enjoy wetland wildlife on your doorstep!

Spring is the best time to put in a new pond. Firstly, choose a sunny site away from overhanging trees. Dig out the space for your pond - making sure it is at least 77cm deep with shallow edges. This will enable your plants to take root

and allow easy access for animals. Remove any stones, then line the hole with sand, and old carpet if you have it, before laying a butyl rubber lining. To work out how much lining you'll need, use this calculation:

Length of liner = length of pond + twice depth of pond + 60cm (for overlap

Width of liner = width of pond + twice depth of pond + 60cm (for overlap at edges)

After putting the lining in, turn it under at the edges and cover with turf, then fill with water. Introduce native plants from the list above around one

Don't take frog spawn from the wild and bring it to your pond. Instead, wait for word to get around that there's a new pond in the neighbourhood and watch as frogs, toads and newts populate it themselves.

Safety first: If small children use or visit your garden you should include a barrier over or around the water such as a fence or rigid mesh (allowing 75mm squares for small animals and plants).

Gardening for wildlife getting you started

Wildlife needs four things if it's to thrive in your garden - food, water, shelter and a place to breed. By providing some, if not all of these things you will bring your garden to life. Here are some ideas to get you started and help you make a difference for wildlife, whatever the size of your garden.

Butterfly gardens

Butterflies bring beauty to any garden. Attract them with nectar-rich flowers like verbena, scabious and ice-plant. Go for plants with simple flowers that make it easy for butterflies to get at the nectar. Avoid double-flowered varieties of plants which may have no nectar. Many cottage garden flowers are suitable. Plant in a sheltered sunny spot and don't forget to provide food plants for caterpillars too.

(See the box below for plant suggestions)

Go organic

You can have an attractive and productive garden without using chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

You can make and use your own compost, encourage insect and slug-eating creatures and adapt natural processes to

Gardeners' friends include frogs and toads, birds, and small mammals like bats and hedgehogs - all of which eat insects or slugs. Ladybirds. lacewings and hoverflies feast on aphids.

Favour native trees, but remember other species can be good for wildlife too.

Trees: alder, ash, aspen, beech, birch, bird cherry and wild cherry, crab apple. field maple, hazel, holly, juniper, oak, Scot's pine, rowan, yew, whitebeam,

Shrubs: alder buckthorn, blackthorn, buckthorn, broom, dog-rose, dogwood, elder, guelder-rose, hawthorn, spindle.



Different species of birds eat different things in different ways and places. Provide nuts, seeds, fat and kitchen scraps in feeders, trays and on the ground. Insect eaters will appreciate mealworms sprinkled on the ground or in fat. Move feeding places from time to time to guard against predators, disease and unwelcome visitors such

Remember that water is vitally important, so if you have a bird bath or pond keep it topped up and ensure it's ice-free on cold

Tits and nuthatches need boxes with a 28mm entrance hole, house sparrows around 32mm. Open-fronted boxes attract robins and flycatchers. Large open-fronted boxes high in trees may attract owls or kestrels.

Do not put boxes in full sun, and do site them away from places that predators might attack from, such as overhanging branches.

Climbing plants

Climbing plants on fences and walls make nesting and roosting sites for birds, and a haven for insects and small animals. Choose plants like quince and honeysuckle which have nectar-rich flowers followed by fruit. Make sure you have some evergreens too; ivy is especially valuable.

Hedges provide living space and food for all sorts of wildlife, as well as privacy and security for you. Good blackthorn, wild rose, holly, hazel and elder. In addition, berberis and pyracantha produce lots of berries for

Food plant for caterpillar

Peat bogs are very special places for wildlife but, partly due to gardeners' demand for peat, nearly all have been destroyed in the UK. Help save our remaining bogs by using peat-free composts and mulches, such as chipped bark, leaf mould or coir, Contact The Wildlife Trusts for details of where to buy peat-free products.

Many plants grow on walls, including ivy-leaved toadflax, various ferns, red valerian and, of course, wallflower. Spiders and solitary bees like nooks and crannies, and rockeries will shelter many small creatures. Hollow stems left over the winter provide homes for insect larvae and pupae.

A meadow makes a wonderful alternative to plain grass on your lawn and brings vibrant colour to any garden. It can be difficult to make a meadow from scratch, especially as you need to reduce nutrient levels in vour soil.

A good alternative is to plant meadow flowers as plugs into your lawn, but be prepared to alter your mowing pattern to allow the flowers to grow. Generally cowslip, ox-eye daisy, cranesbill, yellow rattle, self-heal and

Compost bins

Make your own natural fertiliser. Compost garden waste and vegetable kitchen scraps in a home-made box or bought compost bin. If you have limited space, you can still make compost in a small 'worm bin' in your house or back yard.

meadow buttercup

do well.

A small space is not a barrier to gardening for wildlife; small, thoughtful changes can have a real impact when attracting wild creatures.

Remember that your space is three-dimensional, so make imaginative use of walls, roofs and other structures.

Be aware of your garden's space through summer and winter, so you can make best use of sun and shade for your chosen features.

Even the smallest of 'ponds' are valuable - old sinks and buckets can teem with wildlife, just by being thoughtfully placed and adapted.

Plant a window box or container with butterfly nectar plants such as lavender or marjoram - or night-scented stocks and tobacco plants for moths.

Make a small gravel garden planted with nectar-providing perennials such as scabious, or plant in spaces in a paved area.

and shelter many other animals, including frogs, toads and slow worms. The rare stag beetle needs dead wood to breed in. Hedgehogs often hibernate in wood piles. so if you're having a bonfire, check for sleeping hedgehogs first.

A pile of logs in a shady

corner will feed beetle larvae



Nettle feeders

Nettles are the food plant of the caterpillars of some beautiful butterflies: red admiral, peacock, small tortoiseshell and comma. Butterflies prefer not to lay their eggs in the shade, so choose a sunny spot to grow your nettles.









Nectar giving plants for butterflies

Primrose, aubretia, sweet rocket

Lavender, cat mint, thyme, heliotrope, red valerian, hebe. buddleia knapweed

Michaelmas daisy, sweet scabious hyssop, ice-plant

Moths like night-scented stocks, honevsuckle, evening primrose and tobacco plants