

4 WILDLIFE GARDENING



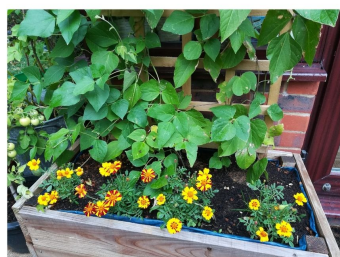
HOW YOU CAN HELP BIODIVERSITY

Encouraging and protecting biodiversity starts on our doorsteps. The 24 million gardens in the UK provide habitat for thousands of species. These species can be helped by us in the way we design and manage our gardens. Gardening for wildlife does not mean an untidy jungle, it is learning about things we could do, then selecting and applying those measures to suit our particular garden.



For a range of ideas look in the window of No 5 the High Street, beside Calnans the Butchers, where a wonderful model of a wildlife garden highlights many of the options.

The essentials of successful wildlife gardening are based on four things: trees, deadwood, water and variety of planting.



Marigolds attract not only important pollinators but also predators of destructive insects and can reduce pests in the soil. Tree glue band straps can help stopping ants from travelling up fruit trees. This is important to reduce aphid populations as ants protect them and feed off the honeydew aphids produce.



NATURAL PEST CONTROL

You don't have to use chemicals to control pests in your garden. Organic methods are not harmful for wildlife and can be just as effective.

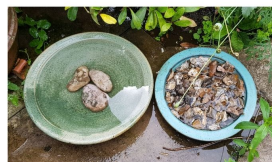
Bees can see the colour purple more clearly than any other colour.

WHY IS PROTECTING HEDGEHOGS SO IMPORTANT?

Hedgehogs are what is known as an 'indicator species'. This means that their decline is a significant indicator that our environment is also in decline. Hedgehogs were put on the 'at risk of extinction' register last year.

There are some very simple things we can do in our gardens to help hedgehogs thrive:

- Put holes in your garden fence/gate/wall to allow them to move between gardens.
- Leave out food such as tinned dog or cat food, cat biscuits or crushed dog biscuits and water (no milk!).
- Create a log and leaf pile for them to shelter in and find bugs to eat.



Most invertebrates that we consider as pests are favourite foods of wild animals and birds

LOCAL ACTIONS

There is a huge movement by many organisations to encourage wildlife gardening and if you search online or check bookstores you will find a wealth of general and species-specific advice.

Support Green Plan actions!



Donate here

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Here are some measures you can take to help wildlife generally and apply to your garden:

- finding alternatives to pesticides
- continuously providing water
- growing plants that attract pollinators
- creating a log pile
- making a pond
- Leaving a patch of lawn unmown

Others are species specific, like providing holes so hedgehogs can move from one garden to another or setting up birdboxes.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GREEN PLAN GO TO:

www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/
GREEN-PLANS