



Make your garden wildlife-friendly

Wild birds, insects, mammals, amphibians and reptiles all need food, water, shelter and places to breed. The following suggestions may help you make your garden a haven for wildlife.



Climbing plants on walls and fences – some climbing plants, such as honeysuckle, have nectar-rich flowers followed by fruit. Evergreens, such as ivy, are not only a rich source of food with their flowers and fruit; they also provide nesting and roosting sites for birds and hibernation sites for some butterflies.



Avoid using pesticides – if you make your garden safe for frogs, toads, slow-worms, birds, bats and hedgehogs, it may help you control insect pests, slugs and snails.



Nectar-rich flowers – most wild flowers are good sources of nectar and pollen, but garden flowers, especially buddleia, scabious and ice plant, can be useful too.



Bird feeders – a welcome source of nuts, seeds, fats and kitchen scraps in winter but move the feeding places from time to time to guard against predators, disease and unwelcome visitors.



Use peat-free products – help save the world's declining peat bogs.



Make your own compost – a free natural fertiliser and, if you are lucky, slow-worms may lay their eggs in your compost heap.



Log piles – placed in a shady corner, log piles can provide shelter for frogs, toads, slow-worms, hedgehogs and beetles.



Bird breeding boxes – different species of bird need different designs of boxes. Never place them in full sun. You can also get boxes for some animals, such as bats, and for various bees.



Ponds – ponds attract a wide array of wildlife and provide bathing and drinking places for birds. But introducing fish is not a good idea – they will eat your wildlife.



For more information, visit:

<http://www.wildlifeservices.co.uk/freebook.html?gclid=CLyEk4qgILACFW1ItAodtVlqRA>

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/58001>

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/>



Or contact Plumpton and Wildlife and Habitat Group for free advice.

You can email us at plumptonwildlife@gmail.com

