

# PLANNING YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN



## BUILD HABITATS

However small or large your garden is you can offer a huge variety of habitats for wildlife. When designing your wildlife garden consider how you can create homes for nature. Some good examples can be ...

- Lawns can provide a habitat for all sorts of insects and minibeasts as well as feeding ground for birds which will feed on them. Consider leaving some of your lawn uncut for maximum impact.
- Borders filled with flowering plants will not only create a beautiful garden but also provide food for butterflies and bees and seeds and berries for birds and small mammals.
- By using trees and hedges in your garden you can offer homes for birds and mammals and lots of shelter from bad weather and even from predators.
- By adding a pond or a water feature to your garden it can encourage a whole host of animals from amphibians and invertebrates, it can even provide a place for the birds to have a bath.
- Leaving piles of wood or grass trimmings can provide protected and warm places for animals to live and even hibernate.

Your garden can become a busy world of wildlife and some of the most simplest of things can help encourage busy new worlds of nature.

## REDUCE BARRIERS

Make your garden more beautiful as well as attracting more wildlife by breaking down your gardens boundaries for wildlife.

- Create holes in your fence to allow hedgehogs and small mammals to travel through, if you cant create a hole then why not create a hedgehog highway by digging a tunnel under your panels.
- Create a vertical garden by planting climbing plants which can help insects such as caterpillars travel through your garden. These can also provide food for butterflies and bees.
- Choose hedges over brick walls to increase gaps between your garden boundaries. If this is not an option you can hang bug houses and grow plants up existing walls to allow insects to travel through easily.

There are plenty of ways to ensure your garden boundary need not be a barrier to wildlife and also create a beautiful garden for you to enjoy.

## BUILD SHELTER

All wildlife requires a safe place to breed and to shelter, your wildlife garden can provide many ways of providing shelter for animals.

- Grow climbing plants up against walls and fences can provide roosting sites for birds.
- Make room for trees, bushes and hedgerows which can attract nesting birds and small mammals like hedgehogs.
- Invest in bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog homes to give them a helping hand.
- Choose your plants carefully and make sure you use varieties that can provide places for butterflies to lay their eggs.
- Don't forget to help out the insects. Dead wood and old foliage can be a great place for beetles and other minibeasts.

Consider setting up a place to feed the wildlife in your garden to make them feel even more at home and give you the opportunity to view them.

## BE SUSTAINABLE

When designing your garden think about how you can help the environment as part of your gardening when choosing materials.

- Avoid using peat which destroys habitats when being extracted from the ground.
- Install a water butt.
- Make sure all plants are native to the UK including any seeds that you sow.
- Recycle where possible and consider using reclaimed wood for borders and furniture. structures.
- Avoid using pesticides.

**“Think of your garden as a jigsaw piece, slotting in next to many other green spaces to provide wildlife with a ‘corridor’ in which to move around freely!”**

[www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)