Where to find out more

Books and CDs

ATTRACTING WILDLIFE TO YOUR GARDEN by JA Burton and D Tipling, New Holland
BACK GARDEN NATURE RESERVE by Chris Packham, New Holland
CREATING A WILDLIFE GARDEN: how to turn your home into a wildlife haven by Bob and Liz Gibbons, Hamlyn
CREATING SMALL HABITATS FOR WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN by Josie Briggs, Guild of Master Craftsmen Publications
GARDEN LIFE by Jennifer Owen, Chatto and Windus
GARDEN WILDLIFE OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE by Michael Chinery, Harper Collins
GARDENING WITH WILDLIFE IN MIND CD-ROM by Natural England, The Plant Press
HOW TO MAKE A WILDLIFE GARDEN by Chris Baines, Frances Lincoln
NO NETTLES REQUIRED: THE REASSURING TRUTH ABOUT WILDLIFE GARDENING by Ken Thompson, Eden Project Books
WILDLIFE GARDENING by Charlie Ryrie, Cassell Illustrated
WILDLIFE GARDENING: A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK by Fran Hill, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
WILDLIFE GARDENING FOR EVERYONE ed Malcolm Tait, Think Books
WILDLIFE FRIENDLY PLANTS by Rosemary Creeser, Firefly Books
WILDLIFE POND HANDBOOK by Louise Bardasley, New Holland

Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces
www.wildaboutgardens.org
www.wildlife-gardening.org.uk

Organisations

British Trust for Ornithology
www.bto.org
Buglife www.buglife.org.uk
Butterfly Conservation www.butterfly-conservation.org
Countries Council for Wales www.ccw.gov.uk
Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland) www.ehsni.gov.uk
Garden Organic www.gardenorganic.org.uk
Herpetological Conservation Trust www.herpconstrust.org.uk
Mammals Trust UK www.mtuk.org.uk
Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk
Plantlife www.plantlife.org.uk
Pond Conservation www.pondconservation.org.uk
The Royal Horticultural Society www.rhs.org.uk
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds www.rspb.org.uk
Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk
The Wildlife Trusts www.wildlifetrusts.org

Bringing your garden to life
A simple guide to gardening with wildlife in mind

This leaflet was produced by the Forum for Gardening with Wildlife in Mind, made up of around 100 organisations with an interest in wildlife gardening. It was inspired by Let our gardens live! A manifesto for gardens, people and nature. For more about the manifesto and how to support it, organisations should go to www.naturalengland.org.uk/campaigns/breathingplaces and individuals to www.wildaboutgardens.org.

Edited by Rosemary Ward, Design & Illustration by Elaine Vigor
Gardens and wildlife can thrive together

Your garden is already teeming with wildlife, much of it invisible in the soil. These tiny creatures are vital to the functioning of your garden, and the more wildlife you can encourage and support, the more interest and enjoyment you will gain. Birds and butterflies add colour, grace and movement; bees, beetles and bugs pollinate flowers, recycle nutrients and feed larger creatures. Share your garden with wildlife and see what you can discover.

Why wildlife matters to gardens
- It’s fun. Watching wildlife of all kinds is a joy; it engages children in the fascination of the natural world and helps us all feel more connected with the wider environment.
- It’s good for you. Studies have shown that contact with the natural world can improve our physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- It’s less work. Wildlife loves a bit of neglect, so you’ve a good excuse for leaving some long grass and a few untidy corners.
- It can help you. Bees pollinate your fruit and vegetables, frogs and beetles help keep slugs in check and blue tits hoover up greenfly.

You may think wildlife belongs in the countryside. However, modern farming and forestry and other pressures are squeezing nature out of many areas. Of course, some plants and animals will never flourish in gardens, but many do, and your actions can make a real difference to them.

Why gardens matter to wildlife
- They are a safer, richer, more varied environment than much of the countryside, and create a refuge for many native plants, and creatures such as woodland birds, hedgerow butterflies, frogs and toads. Even the United Nations, through the Agenda 21 Accord, recognises the value of gardens for wildlife.
- They can provide a network of feeding stations and rest stops for birds and mammals that stretches right across the country. Almost a quarter of the land area in towns and cities is occupied by gardens. Together, they could provide thousands of square miles of wildlife habitat.
- They are home to myriad small creatures. From tiny springtails in the compost heap to magnificent stag beetles in a rotted log, your garden is their whole world.

Watch and enjoy the wonderful wildlife in your garden and discover an amazing new world thriving in your own back yard.

**Top Ten Tips for Wildlife Gardening**

1. **Brighten your garden** with flowers that provide pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects. Choose wild flowers or garden plants to offer food from spring to autumn.
2. **Grow a variety of trees, shrubs and climbers, or a mixed hedge, to give food and shelter.** Good small trees include rowan, crab apple and hawthorn. Ivy provides shelter for nesting birds, autumn nectar and winter berries.
3. **Look after trees and they’ll look after the wildlife.** Mature trees are vital for garden wildlife diversity. If your garden’s too small for big trees get some planted in the neighbourhood, and protect those that are already there.
4. **Add water – an upturned bin-lid is a start or, better still, dig a pond.** Make sure ponds have a sloping side to allow creatures an easy way out, and a good range of plants for a varied habitat.
5. **Leave a pile of dead wood in a shady spot.** Any wood will do although big, natural logs are best. They can make a home for anything from colourful fungi to hibernating toads.
6. **Build a compost heap.** Compost makes for healthy soil, which is good for garden plants and wildlife. Compost heaps also shelter many small creatures, and even some larger ones, like slug-eating slow-worms.
7. **Provide food and water for birds all year round.** Offering a mix of food including peanuts, sunflower hearts, seeds, kitchen scraps and fat balls, as well as natural food such as berries and seed-heads, will attract a wide range of birds.
8. **Relax! Don’t be too fussy.** Leave some areas undisturbed. Piles of leaves and twiggy debris tucked under a hedge or in an out-of-the-way corner will provide shelter for frogs, mice and hedgehogs.
9. **Allow a patch of grass to grow longer.** This will encourage wild flowers, provide shelter for small mammals and food for some butterfly caterpillars.
10. **Garden sustainably to help protect wildlife and the environment world-wide.** Use chemicals only as a last resort, avoid peat, choose wood from sustainable sources, recycle all you can and save water.