

Resource Guide: Wildlife Gardening

JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE



WHAT IS WILDLIFE GARDENING?

Your local green space or own back garden can provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature on a regular basis. Wildlife can be found in almost any patch of ground and there are plenty of things you can do to give nature (biodiversity) a helping hand:

- Find out what plants and animals are already in your green space;
- Plant nectar rich flowers, native trees and shrubs to support wildlife (especially bees and butterflies);
- Create habitats for wildlife (e.g. wildflower meadows, wetland areas, bat and bird boxes, nooks and crannies for insects to shelter and breed);
- Create a feeding and drinking station for birds;
- Use a peat-free alternatives in your garden and start your own compost heap;
- Cut out harmful chemicals and manage pests by encouraging natural predators;
- Explore environmental issues such as growing your own food and supporting local produce



2011-2020 has been declared the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity – a decade that celebrates the diversity of life on Earth, including every plant, animal and micro-organism. There are many ways to get involved, learn about the rich tapestry of life and discover why it's important to help monitor and conserve wildlife. Visit [United Nations Decade for Biodiversity](https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/biodiversity/2011-2020-decade-on-biodiversity.html) for more details. Discuss linking Biodiversity to your activity with your John Muir Award contact.

USEFUL WEBSITES

This is by no means an exhaustive list - just a starting point.

The Wildlife Trust & Royal Horticultural Society www.wildaboutgardens.org – This joint project shares advice and knowledge, so everyone can create their own wildlife havens.

Learning through Landscapes www.ltl.org.uk, **Grounds for Learning** www.gflscotland.org.uk – Practical inspiration for creating outdoor learning and play experiences which can also benefit wildlife.

BBC Breathing places www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools – Ideas for making your very own place for nature. For tips and advice see www.bbc.co.uk/gardening

RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/wildlifegarden – Ways to attract wildlife and ‘give nature a home’ near you.

Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees – Free trees for schools and community groups throughout the UK, and lots of handy learning resources.

Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk – Top tips and leaflets on wildlife gardening.

Scottish Natural Heritage <http://www.snh.org.uk> – Gardening forum and free downloadable leaflets including Garden for Life; Garden for butterflies; and Garden for birds.

Wales Biodiversity Partnership biodiversitywales.org.uk – Make a pledge for nature and other useful links.

OPAL www.opalexplornature.org - Find out how your gardening efforts have helped local wildlife by taking part in nature surveys before and afterwards.

Royal Horticultural Society www.rhs.org.uk – Helpful information on plants and gardening. RHS also offer free visits for schools and CPD training events.

Eco-Schools www.eco-schools.org, (Eco-Schools Scotland www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org) – Help and advice on Eco-schools topics including biodiversity and school grounds.

Freecycle Network www.freecycle.org – Search for free gardening tools and equipment in your area.

Guerilla Gardening - www.guerrillagardening.org – Fun tips, ideas and inspiration on how to ‘garden without boundaries’ – improving neglected public spaces for wildlife and people.

National Allotment Association - www.nsalg.org.uk – Handy hints and monthly advice for new gardeners, and information on easy to grow vegetables.

Soil Association www.soilassociation.org – Information on organic farming and Food for Life Partnership.

Freshwater Habitats Trust www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk – Information and advice on wildlife found in freshwater bodies. Find out how to make you own wildlife pond with the [Pond Creation Toolkit](#).

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust bumblebeeconservation.org – Find out how to help bees and their habitats in your area.

Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk, **Butterfly Conservation** www.butterfly-conservation.org
General information on bats and butterflies and how to protect them and attract them to your garden.

Thrive UK www.thrive.org.uk – Practical solutions so that anyone with a disability can take part in, benefit from and enjoy gardening.