

Wildlife Gardening

Your local green space or own back garden can provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with wildness 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 and make these places a little wilder.

Helping your green space to become a little wilder has many benefits including connecting us with nature, supporting pollinators, providing food and shelter for wildlife, improving soil health and reversing habitat loss.

Here are some things you can do to help your wild place become a little wilder:

- 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, butterflies and moths)
- 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 – keep it clean to avoid disease
- Use peat-free compost 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 using nature-friendly methods
- Create wildlife corridors / increase connectivity by leaving gaps in fences for small mammals such as hedgehogs

Useful websites

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

[The Wildlife Trust & Royal Horticultural Society](#) – This joint project shares advice and knowledge, so everyone can create their own wildlife havens.

[Grow Wild](#) Kew Gardens is on a mission to inspire people to champion UK native plants and fungi.

[Learning through Landscapes](#) – Practical inspiration for creating outdoor learning and play experiences which can also benefit wildlife.

[RSPB Gardening for Wildlife](#) – Ways to attract wildlife and ‘give nature a home’ near you.

[Woodland Trust](#) – Free trees for schools and community groups throughout the UK, and lots of handy learning resources.

[NatureScot](#) - seasonal tips to help nature thrive.

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership](#) – Make a pledge for nature and other useful links.

[Royal Horticultural Society](#) – Helpful information on plants and gardening, including resources for schools.

[Eco-Schools](#) ([Eco-Schools Scotland](#)) – Help and advice on Eco-schools topics including biodiversity and school grounds.

[Freecycle Network](#) – Search for free gardening tools and equipment in your area.

[Guerilla Gardening](#) - Fun tips, ideas and inspiration on how to ‘garden without boundaries’, improving neglected public spaces for wildlife and people.

[National Allotment Association](#) - Handy hints and monthly advice for new gardeners, and information on easy to grow vegetables.

[Soil Association](#) – Information on organic farming and Food for Life Partnership.

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

[The Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#) – Help bees and their habitats.

[Bat Conservation Trust](#) and [Butterfly Conservation](#) – Gardening with butterflies and moths in mind.

[Thrive UK](#) – Practical advice and inspiration from the gardening for health charity.