

Wildlife Gardening for Biodiversity

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. Your local green space or own back garden can provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with wildness on a regular basis.

Biodiversity is short for biological diversity, and it is the variety of all living things on Earth. Living things are found in wild places, nature reserves, farmland, cities and the countryside; all the places where we live, work and visit. Biodiversity is the life support system of our planet and serves us in many ways, providing food, medicines and other materials; a clean and healthy environment; beauty in our surroundings; spiritual uplift and restorative therapy; an important part of our arts, cultures and traditions; a place for us to visit and have fun.

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:

- 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.

[**National History Museum**](#) - A great starting point to exploring Biodiversity, and why we need it.

[**The Wildlife Trust & Royal Horticultural Society**](#) - Joint project sharing 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 that benefit wildlife.

[**RSPB Gardening for Wildlife**](#) - Ways to attract wildlife and 'give nature a home' near you.

[**Woodland Trust**](#) - Free trees for school and community groups in the UK, and handy resources.

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

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

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

[**Bat Conservation Trust and Butterfly Conservation**](#) - Gardening to support butterflies and moths.

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

[**National Biodiversity Network**](#) - Submit a sighting through [irecord](#) to your local record centre.

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

[**Eco-Schools \(Eco-Schools Scotland\)**](#) - Help and advice on 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.