

THE RSPB WILDLIFE GARDEN.

With wildlife in our countryside declining, gardens can help by providing homes for all sorts of creatures. You don't have to turn your garden into a wilderness to attract wildlife – in fact the birds, butterflies and other creatures will add to the beauty and interest.

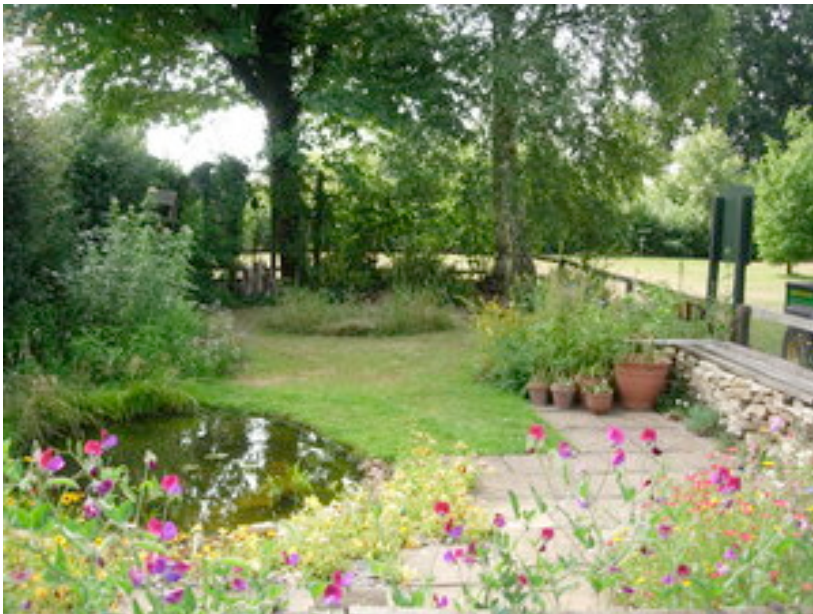
Why gardens matter to wildlife?

Gardens are a safer, richer and 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.

Gardens can also provide a network of feeding stations and rest stops for birds and mammals that stretch right across the country.

There are about 10 million gardens in the UK. These are more diverse than the rainforests and cover an area larger than all the UK's nature reserves combined. Gardens are an essential space where wildlife can thrive.

Professor Chris Baines designed this garden as a “peering in” garden, rather than catering for through traffic, which can disrupt feeding and nesting birds.



The garden includes a rich mixture of diverse habitats. In spring and summer you can see a mini wildflower meadow growing in the middle of the organically managed lawn.

The hedge of native mixed species, provides both food and shelter for a wide range of birds and insects throughout the year. The border in front of the hedge is planted with flowers that attract butterflies and moths.

The drystone wall also extends the range of habitats available for plants and animals. Ivy leaved toadflax and thrift has both found homes here.

In summer, a colourful patch of annual flowers besides the gate attracts many beneficial insects to the gardens.

A marshy area has been created beside the pond for moisture-loving plants such as meadowsweet, purple loosestrife and teasel.

Top 10 Tips for Wildlife Gardening

1. Brighten your garden with flowers that provide pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects
2. Grow a variety of trees, shrubs and climbers to give food and shelter
3. Look after trees and they'll look after the wildlife. Mature trees are vital for wildlife diversity
4. If possible dig a pond
5. Leave a pile of dead wood in a shady place, which will create a home for fungi and hibernating toads
6. Build a compost heap – apart from improving the soil they also shelter many small creatures and even some larger ones
7. Provide food and water for birds all year round
8. Relax – don't be too tidy
9. Allow a patch of grass to grow longer – this will encourage wild flowers, provide more shelter for small mammals and food for some caterpillars
10. Garden sustainably to help protect wildlife and the environment world wide

Further Information

There is a lot of information about wildlife gardening

Garden Organic Fact sheets

GG 10 - Nettles

GG 12 – Ladybirds

GG 13 – Lacewings

GG 29 – Setting up a pond

GG 30 – Creating a Wildflower Meadow

GG 31 – Bumblebee nest boxes

GG 34 – Troubleshooting in the Garden pond

GG 40 – Flowers for the Garden

GG 42 – Shrubs and climbers for the wildlife garden

GG 43 – Trees for a wildlife garden

GG 44 – Attracting beneficial insects

Useful websites

www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk

www.rspb.org.uk

www.buglife.org.uk

PLEASE RETURN THE SHEET TO THE HOLDER ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED WITH IT FOR OTHERS TO USE – THANK YOU