

## Gardening for Wildlife

### What is wildlife gardening?

Gardens and outdoor spaces are perfect areas to create a haven for wildlife. Wildlife gardening is not only beneficial to a variety of species but also to us! Gardening for wildlife doesn't mean letting nettles and brambles grow everywhere- wildlife is quite happy with straight lines and symmetry. You don't need to completely redesign your garden; with a few small changes, you can be a wildlife gardener!



### Why is wildlife gardening important?



Nature is in crisis. Since 1970, one half (50%) of wildlife has been destroyed in Great Britain. Habitat is shrinking and becoming more broken up and disconnected. By creating areas where wildlife can thrive, we are helping to support a huge range of species and creating important habitat. Creating bigger, better more joined up habitats helps to form a vast network rich in nature.

Wildlife gardening isn't just good for nature; it's good for us too! Studies have shown that more contact with the natural world is good for our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It's accessible to everyone, young and old, regardless of the size of your garden or outdoor space.

A healthy garden benefits everyone. Bees will help pollinate fruit and vegetables; 84% of food crops rely on insect pollination and a third of every mouthful of food is the result of pollination by bees.

### How can you get involved?

You don't need to create a nature reserve in your back garden to get involved! With a few simple changes, you can create a haven for wildlife, no matter how big or small your outdoor space. Choosing native plants over invasive species, creating areas of shelter and ensuring food and water is accessible for wildlife are some of the key ways you can help. Check out our Top Tips for more ideas!



### What about community spaces and school grounds?

Village greens, school grounds and shared outdoor spaces all provide fantastic opportunities to create havens for wildlife. No matter how big or small the space, these areas can be made into fantastic wildlife friendly habitats. There are lots of ways you can make these spaces wildlife friendly; whether you leave the grass to grow a little bit longer or you want to create a wildlife pond. There are ways for everyone to get involved too; wildlife gardening is about making space for everyone.