

## 10 ways to attract wildlife to your garden.

**1. Think about what you plant.** Use plants that provide food and shelter. Fragrant flowers like buddleia, lavender, dandelions or bluebells will attract butterflies and bees, and fruit trees and shrubs are a favourite for mammals and birds.

**2. Pile it up.** Make a log pile with unwanted pieces of wood creating a perfect habitat for insects and shelter for other animals. Little hedgehogs will delight in a humble pile of logs! Hedgehogs will use the pile for hiding, hibernating and nesting under and the rotting wood will attract insects, snails and caterpillars to your garden for the hedgehogs to eat. Creating a log pile is totally free and simple.



**3. Go organic.** Avoid using pesticides, because they can be harmful to various animals and interrupt the food chain. Birds and hedgehogs eat pests so they will be controlled naturally.

**4. Recycle.** Start composting by having a compost pile or bin. You can use unwanted vegetation from your garden like grass cuttings and fallen leaves, along with house waste like vegetable or fruit peel, paper, teabags, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters. This will provide shelter and food for many species. Avoid meat and dairy leftovers as this may encourage vermin.

**5. Provide a source of water.** If you haven't got a bird bath or small pond, a washing-up bowl set into the ground will be just as efficient and beneficial. Think about water stations for pollinators too!

**6. Don't waste.** Cut up fruit that is too ripe and leave it in your garden instead of throwing it away, this will attract animals.

**7. Have a maintenance free Wild Corner.** Leave part of your garden uncut to provide shelter and a varied habitat for many animals and instead of worrying about maintenance, you can sit back and watch it flourish.

**8. Make a home.** Buy or make a nesting box for birds or even bats to nest in. Make sure you put it in a sheltered place and high enough and so it's out of reach from cats.

**9. Hiding Holes for Pollinators.** Simply drill holes into a timber post which is located in a sunny position. Solitary bees and wasps will happily lay their eggs here and hang around your garden, pollinating flowers and keeping garden pests at bay.



**10. Use climbing plants.** You can encourage climbers like ivy or jasmine to grow on garden walls as somewhere for birds to nest and to provide pollen for bees, butterflies and insects.

# Make your own bird feeders!



## Ladybug Feeder

Ladybugs pose no harm and are beneficial to your plants by feasting on a few of your plant's nemeses such as aphids, mealybugs, leaf hoppers, scales and mites. Along with insects, ladybugs also look for pollen for a food source, so there are numerous plants you can grow to help attract them. Flowers and herbs such as cilantro, dill, fennel, caraway, yarrow, tansy, angelica, scented geraniums, coreopsis and cosmos are good choices for luring the ladybug.

### What You Need:

#### Materials

Bamboo, about 10" in length by 1 1/2" – 2" in diameter.

Garden twine or chain

Raisins

#### Tools

Saw

Drill

Pencil

Ruler

### Instructions:

1. Gather your materials and tools.
2. Measure your bamboo. I marked mine at 10".
3. After you've made your mark, use your pencil to draw a line tapering the end at an angle. This will provide a sort of umbrella to keep the rain out of your ladybug feeder.
4. Use your saw to cut the line at the angle, being careful not to spilt your bamboo.
5. Do the same thing on the opposite end and then you're left with the finished bamboo. If your ends are really sharp or jagged, you can gently sand them with a piece of sandpaper.
6. Use your drill to drill holes just slightly bigger than the twine you're using.
7. Insert twine ends through the holes, making a double knot on each end.
8. Hang your ladybug feeder and insert a couple of raisins into the bamboo feeder. The raisins will draw the ladybugs to the feeder and feed them if aphids or other insects are scarce.
9. I chose to hang mine close to a food source, situating my feeder on a hook between my rose bushes, since they are notorious aphid attracters.



## Water station for Bees and Other Pollinators:

Great idea because bees pollinate thousands of flowers and gardens a day but can easily drown.

### You will need:

- Marbles or pebbles
- Glass bowl or dish
- Empty container e.g. Large flower pot



### Instructions:

Empty marbles into round glass pie dish and fill with water. Place empty container or pot upside down and set pie dish on top of it



# Build a Bug Hotel

Safe hideaways can be hard for wildlife to find in some gardens, and what better use for all your garden waste and odds and ends? Build your bug hotel well and it could shelter anything from hedgehogs to toads, solitary bees to bumblebees, and ladybirds to woodlice. You can build it any time of year, but you may find you have most natural materials such as straw, dry grass and hollow plant stems in autumn.

## Materials you can use:

- Old wooden pallets
- Strips of wood
- Straw, moss, dry leaves
- Woodchips
- Old terracotta pots
- Old roofing tiles
- Bricks, preferably those with holes through them
- Old logs
- Bark
- Pine cones
- Sand, soil
- Hollow bamboo canes and dead hollow stems cut from shrubs & herbaceous plants
- A sheet of roofing felt
- Planks of wood
- Whatever else you can find - preferably natural materials



## Instructions:

1. **Choose a suitable site** that is level and the ground firm. You'll get different residents depending on where you put it, as some like cool, damp conditions and others (such as solitary bees) prefer the sun. If you have vegetable beds, keep it a good distance away from them.
2. **Fill the gaps!** To provide all sorts of different nooks and crannies, crevices, tunnels and cosy beds include:
  - dead wood and loose bark for beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice.
  - holes and small tubes (not plastic) for solitary bees made out of bamboo, reeds and drilled logs
  - larger holes with stones and tiles, which provide the cool, damp conditions frogs and toads like – if you put it in the centre you'll give them a frost-free place to spend the winter (they'll help eat slugs)
  - dry leaves, sticks or straw for ladybirds (they eat aphids) and other beetles and bugs
  - corrugated cardboard for lacewings (their larvae eat aphids, too)
  - dry leaves which mimic a natural forest floor
  - you can even put a hedgehog box into the base of the hotel.
3. **Add a roof.** Put a roof on to keep it relatively dry. Use old roof tiles or some old planks covered with roofing felt. You can give it a 'green' or 'brown' roof by putting a bit of rubble or gritty soil on top. Only plants that love dry conditions cope up there, but some wild flower seeds could arrive on the breeze and take root.



Surround your hotel with nectar-rich flowers – essential food for butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects.