

# Wildlife Gardening

Turn your garden into a mini nature reserve

With a few simple changes, any garden, big or small, can be transformed into a valuable haven for wildlife.



## As easy as 1,2,3

3 steps to creating your own  
Wildlife Garden...



## Step 1: Food

Providing food is one of the best ways to attract wildlife into your mini nature reserve.

- **Flower Power!**

Flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects all year round. Many garden flowering plants are as good for wildlife as wild flowers are, attracting insects to come and feast on their nectar. Go for plants with simple flowers to make it easy for butterflies to get at the nectar. In spring, plant flowers such as aubrieta, primrose and sweet rocket. In summer, go for buddleia, lavender and thyme. In autumn, flowers such as Michaelmas daisy and sweet scabious are best. Ivy actually flowers in the winter, so is perfect for keeping insects going during those cold months. If you are able to include native plants in your garden (such as bird's foot trefoil, alder buckthorn, lady's smock) these will provide vital food for caterpillars and fill your garden with beautiful butterflies.

- **Feeding Frenzy!**

A great way to attract birds to your garden is with bird-feeders. Try placing different types around the garden. Some birds such as starlings and blackbirds feed from the ground, whilst others prefer hanging feeders with certain types of seed. Check out the range at your local garden centre, or get creative and make your own. To find out where to buy wild bird food and feeders visit [www.attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk](http://www.attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk)



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## Step 2: Water

Providing food is one of the best ways to attract wildlife into your mini nature reserve.

Don't forget to provide water for the wildlife you attract to your garden - this could be as small as a dish or as large as a pond...

- **Dish up!**  
Just a shallow dish placed outside to collect rainwater is a great way to provide water for frogs, hedgehogs and birds. Including one on your bird table will allow all who dine to drink as well.
- **Bath time!**  
All birds need water to keep their feathers clean and to drink. A bird bath is a wonderful focus for a garden, but make sure you change the water regularly as birds don't like to share bathwater!
- **Wildlife pond** Creating a pond, however big or small, in your garden will encourage many creatures including frogs, toads and small mammals to come and visit. It will provide water for birds to drink, and habitat for wetland insects like the dragonfly.



## Step 3: Shelter

If you are going to encourage mammals and birds to visit your garden, why not go a step further and encourage them to stay!

- **Boxed in!**  
The easiest way to provide shelter for birds in your garden is by putting up *bird boxes*. Natural nesting sites are in decline, so nest boxes placed in gardens can make a real difference. There are many boxes available commercially, or you can make your own (see our website for details). Make sure you leave bird boxes up in winter to provide vital shelter during the cold weather.
- **Think outside the box!**  
It is not only birds that need shelter in your garden. If you want to encourage frogs and toads, why not leave a pile of logs and leaves undisturbed in one corner? A rock pile is great for insects, and to make it look more attractive plant climbing plants, packed full of nectar, to screen the stones from sight.

For more information about how to share your garden with wildlife, check out Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's 'Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden' leaflet (contact us for a copy)



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust  
Telephone: 0115 958 8242  
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