

Gardens

Why gardens are important

- We have over 24 million gardens in the UK, covering 667,000 acres – an area seven times the size of the Isle of Wight!
- Together we can create a network of nature reserves and form a vital Nature Recovery Network.
- Many of our common garden visitors – including hedgehogs, sparrows, thrushes, stag beetles, wild bees and butterflies – are increasingly under threat.
- If we manage our gardens to benefit wildlife, these creatures and many more will find refuge, and we can help halt the decline of insects*.
- Gardens provide food, shelter and breeding sites for a wide range of animals.
- Pollinator-friendly garden flowers have immense value in their own right; they help us get active outside and connect us with the beauty of nature.



*Source: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/insects-urgent-action-needed>

How Wildlife Trusts help

- Advise on how to make your outdoor space wildlife-friendly – you can download helpful leaflets here: www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk and read helpful online tips here: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening>
- Action for Insects campaign calling for people to stop using insecticides and pesticides.
- Wildlife-friendly outdoor spaces including gardens.

How people can help

- Install a pond to provide a breeding place for frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies and other aquatic fauna, and a drinking and bathing area for birds and other animals.
- Avoid using chemicals such as insecticides and slug pellets.
- Grow nectar-rich flowers to provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other insects.

- Grow host plants for caterpillars such as Bird's-foot-trefoil, Honesty and Holly (and stinging nettle!).
- Grow a mini meadow of wildlife flowers / leave a patch of lawn to grow long.
- Create a pile of logs/branches for insects and hibernating hedgehogs.
- Saw a hole at the bottom of your fence for hedgehog access.
- Hang up nest boxes for birds and bats.
- [Take the pledge to take action for insects.](#)

Other resources

- [Big or small ponds for all.pdf](#)
- [Get creative for hedgehogs.pdf](#)
- [Go wild for worms.pdf](#)
- [insectspledge.e-activist.com/page/51363/petition/1](#)
- [Working together to create a batty neighbourhood.pdf](#)
- [www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk](#)
- [www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond](#)
- [www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening](#)
- [www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-attract-butterflies-your-garden](#)
- [Your wild bee action pack.pdf](#)

