

HOW TO ATTRACT WILDLIFE TO YOUR GARDEN

LARGE NUMBERS OF BRITISH WILDLIFE SPECIES ARE DECLINING RAPIDLY SO OFFERING A SAFE HAVEN WITHIN YOUR GARDEN HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT

WHAT TYPE OF WILDLIFE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTRACT TO YOUR GARDEN?

HOW TO ATTRACT HEDGEHOGS

Create a small tepee-shaped log pile with space at the bottom to act as a nest

Hedgehogs are attracted to cat and dog food, dried fruit and cooked vegetables

Make a small 6-inch hole in any fences to allow hedgehogs into your garden

Small bowls of water will help to attract new hedgehogs to your garden



HOW TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are near-sighted and attracted to large areas of bright, colourful plants

Ivy, honeysuckle, and clematis climbers provide sheltered areas for butterflies

Plant nectar bearing plants such as lilac, marigold, sunflower, verbena, and zinnia

Offer protected patches to allow caterpillars a nice safe place to pupate



HOW TO ATTRACT BEES

Plant pollen and nectar-rich plants such as chrysanthemums and foxgloves

Bees are also attracted to herbs such as thyme, mint, sweet pea, and rosemary

Create large flowerbeds and borders with a variety of colours and fragrances

Spaces beneath roofing tiles and holes in bricks are used as nesting sites by bees



HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS

Place bird feeders around your garden in areas where cats cannot reach easily

Sparrows tend to nest communally and prefer small "terrace" type homes

Hedges, ivy, honeysuckle, clematis and other climbers offer natural nesting areas

Birdbaths, fruit trees, and colourful garden plants are hugely inviting to birds



HOW TO ATTRACT INSECTS

Place a small pile of decaying leaves in damp and shady corners of the garden

Postpone the cutback of perennials until early spring to encourage seed heads

Make a nest for ladybirds and beetles using a bundle of bamboo or cow parsley

In small gardens, plant a Malus shrub to provide a plentiful food source for wildlife



HOW TO ATTRACT AMPHIBIANS

Build a pond of various depths with shallow edges using small pebbles

Pond plants and rocks are favoured by amphibians and act as natural habitats

Keep your pond clean and control algae without chemicals by using barley straw

Ponds should receive at least 4 hours of sunlight to encourage frogs and newts



Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>, <http://www.channel4.com>, <http://www.rspb.org.uk>