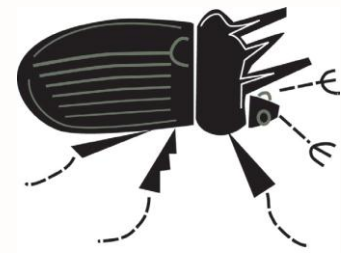


Wildlife Gardening: Shelter building

Gardens are extremely important for wildlife, not only can they provide food and shelter for a huge range of plants and animals, but they can form a natural “bridge” between built up and open areas which allow wildlife to move between them relatively easily. Gardens can also provide particular habitats that may be missing in your local area such as ponds and suitable hibernation or nesting sites. You can help the wildlife that may visit your garden by creating specific habitats that they favour.

Dead wood's dead good

Dead wood is extremely important to a wide range of species. Whether as a log pile, a branch on an old tree or an entire dead tree left standing, wildlife will thrive if the temptation to tidy it away is avoided. Bees and wasps particularly like dead wood in a sunny spot but don't worry if this is not possible as beetles will like the shade.



minotaur beetle

Put up a bird box

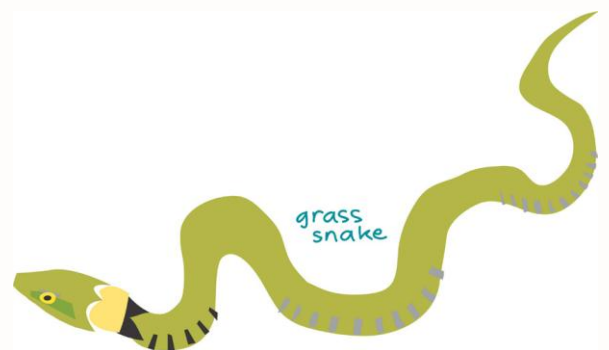
Put up a nest box where you can see it clearly. Not only will it provide a home for a family of tits or sparrows but watching the amount of work the adults put into raising their brood will provide an insight into the slightly frenzied life of the garden bird. There are instructions of how to make your own nest box in our Wildlife Gardening Information Pack available to buy from our online shop.



blue tit

Homes for reptiles

Old slates or a piece of corrugated iron laid in a corner of the garden will attract slow worms and common lizards. Grass snakes enjoy the warmth and moisture generated by compost heaps. Make sure you leave gaps in garden fences to allow reptiles to move from garden to garden.



grass snake

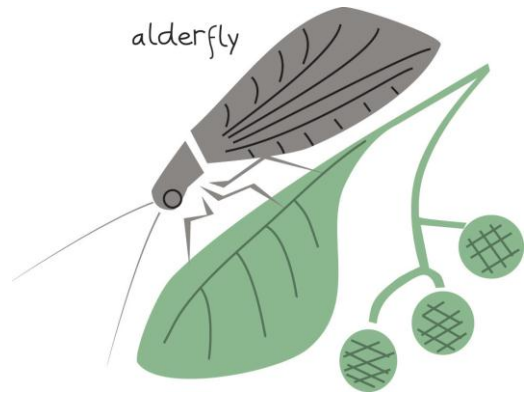
Don't tidy up

Rove beetles and spiders thrive in long grass areas, try to keep a messy corner in your garden at all times. Leave stems uncut through the winter as a hibernation area.



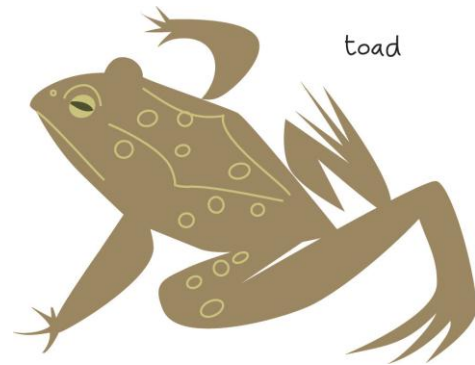
Lacewings and ladybirds

Lacewings and ladybirds are voracious predators of aphids and other garden pests. Although the average wildlife garden provides lots of homes, an over wintering box can boost winter survival of lacewings and ladybirds dramatically. For instructions of how to make your own insect hotel, contact WildLine and request the 'Your guide to insect hotels' factsheet.



Make a home for a hedgehog

You can make a custom made home by building a hedgehog box or using an old upturned crate covered in soil or wood; alternatively simply allow room under your garden shed or create a large log pile. Be very careful with bonfires in the autumn, check them thoroughly to make sure that a hedgehog hasn't made a home.



Create a pond

We all know the importance of ponds in gardens but a pond may not be appropriate in every garden. If you can't stretch to a pond you can still provide areas for animals to drink and bathe. Try digging out a small depression in the ground, line it and fill it with large smooth stones. Top it up and it will be invaluable for birds and mammals. Garden ponds can be made safe if you have children by fencing the area off or using a specially designed grate which sits on the surface of the pond.



If you would like to **find out more** about how to encourage wildlife into your garden, please see the Wildlife Gardening pages of our website at <http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-gardening>.

If you have a question about wildlife you may find in your garden please contact **WildLine**, the Trust's free **wildlife information service** on 01489 774406 or Email: wildline@hiwwt.org.uk