



How Green are you?

Green Gardening



Many people have access to garden, yard or balcony. Whatever the space, it is possible to carry out a range of activities as well as looking after it for the benefit of wildlife.

Action Points for plants

- Encourage native wildflowers manage a section of grass as a meadow, allowing it to grow until July-September before cutting to allow flowers to set seed
- Plant native species of local origin to suit local soils to help genetic diversity and provide a variety of food sources including nectar, berries and seeds. These can be planted even in relatively small pots
- If you have room, plant old and local native fruit trees, which will also help

wildlife and provide a fresh source of fruit

- Water plants in the evening after the heat of the day (this reduces evaporation)
- To conserve water install water butts connected to a down pipe for watering the garden
- Mulch water-loving plants in the garden to save on the need for watering
- Consider planting drought tolerant plants in dry soils with sunny aspects to reduce the need for watering
- Avoid using peat and choose plants from garden centres grown in coir or other peat-free mediums
- Install a compost heap or box, rather than bin to compost organic kitchen waste and garden rubbish, as this will attract more wildlife and is a good source of rich top soil
- Minimise or eliminate pesticide use, and where possible use biodegradable sprays





Action Points for wildlife

- Install wildlife feeding stations such as bird tables. Clean at least once a week to reduce risk of disease
- Birds gain from food provided all year. Provide whole nuts in a mesh feeder and avoid using a coconut in the breeding season to prevent fledglings choking
- Maintain a supply of water such as a pond or bird bath for drinking and bathing. Ensure ponds are covered with a wire mesh frame in autumn to prevent build up of leaves and prevent hedgehogs drowning.
- Consider creating a bog area using a old pond liner
- Provide wildlife nesting sites such as bird, bat and hedgehog boxes
- Create habitats for insects and small mammals by leaving a section of grass uncut
- Leave piles of wood to rot in shady places to act as a home and food source to 'bugs', small mammals, newts, toads etc

- Also more people are choosing to grow and / or buy organic food produce because it does not involve the use of pesticides that are potentially harmful to wildlife.

Examples of useful websites:

The BBC has a series of guides on gardening

http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening_guides/

Cut me Carbon is a website run by South Lakeland Strategic Partnership and includes an article on greening your garden

<http://www.cutmecarbon.co.uk/garden.php>

Green Terra firma is a North American site dedicated to giving tips on green living

<http://greenterrafirma.com/greening-your-garden.html>

Dummies is a general site giving help on many subjects and has a few articles on green living

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/the-essentials-of-greening-your-lawn-and-garden.html>

