

Gardening for Wildlife

By making our gardens friendly to wildlife, and learning what wildlife looks for, we can help make mini nature reserves in our gardens and streets.

Even a small pot or pond helps transform our city landscape into a trail of patches where wildlife can find food, shelter, or a place to rest.

This flyer is intended to save you some time when searching for ideas, activity guides, seeds and plants, for yourself, your family, children or classroom.

The flyer can also be found on the Rewilding Belgravia London website at www.rewildingbelgravialondon.com.

Your personal wildlife stories, photos, and any suggestions for this flyer are welcome, and can be sent to hello@rewildingbelgravialondon.com.

Wildlife Gardening

Natural England's excellent booklets on wildlife gardening can be downloaded here [http://www.wlqf.org/ne27garden_ponds\[1\].pdf](http://www.wlqf.org/ne27garden_ponds[1].pdf).

Their guides include how to make our gardens more attractive to wildlife (and how to spot their presence), as well as guides to composting and living roofs.

Ideas from The London Wildlife Trust include making a pond and growing a hedgerow here - <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/campaigns/garden-living-london>

A guide to making your garden Bee Friendly can be found on this **Bumblebee Conservation Trust** page -

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice/>.

Our gardens and pots are vital to wildlife, including bugs! Learn how to get them buzzing at **Buglife** - <https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/gardening-for-bugs/>

Activity Guides

The following sites offer simple activity sheets that can be downloaded and printed out.

Wildlife Watch activity sheets, under 'Things to do' - <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities>.

- ideas include making a bumblebee nest, building hidey holes, growing a mini meadow and decorating trees.

The Wildlife Trusts 'Help wildlife at home guides' include growing a wildlife-friendly vegetable & herb garden, a butterfly garden, a DIY vertical garden, and planting bushes for birds to nest in - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions>.

RSPB wildlife garden ideas - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions>.

Ponds

Birds, insects, frogs... and cats, all love to visit a pond, especially when the puddles dry up!

Jack Wallington has a very good page on creating a container pond that's just the right size for a small garden or patio - <https://www.jackwallington.com/how-to-make-a-micro-wildlife-pond-in-a-pot/>.

The **RHS** also has a good page on creating a wildlife container pond here <https://www.rhs.org.uk/ponds/wildlife-container-pond-steps>.

The Wildlife Trusts have a printable guide, and include helpful details on choosing pond plants - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>

Water-tight half whisky barrels can be found on eBay.

Natural England provide details on planning and digging a garden pond, native plants for your pond, and how to build a lush, boggy area next to it for young frogs.

See http://www.wlqf.org/natural_england_booklets.html.

Wildflower meadows

At www.habitataid.co.uk in their Help & Advice section, you'll find a guide to growing a wildflower meadow, including a short video.

They sell small packets of genuine British meadow seeds at www.britishwildflowermeadowseeds.co.uk.

Natural England's guide to growing a wildflower meadow in your garden can be found here http://www.wlqf.org/natural_england_booklets.html.

British shrubs, trees and hedge plants

A good range of British shrubs, trees and hedge plants can be found at www.habitataid.co.uk.

They also offer hedge plant mixes, with their Stock Friendly Mix being ideal for gardens.

Cooks, families and schools might be interested in their Kitchen Hedge mix which has minimal spines and tasty fruits!

Find **small meadow seed packets**, from real British meadows, at British Wildflower Seeds - <https://britishwildflowermeadowseeds.co.uk>.

Families, children & teachers

In addition to the activity sheets above, **Wildlife Watch** offers guides for parents & teachers.

Guides include, 'The art of getting children outdoors' and an Action for Insects guide. See <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/Learning>

The **RSPB** suggests activities for children, families and teachers under Fun & Learning. See <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/>

Visit the **Bumblebee Conservation Trust** website to learn about bumblebees and how to create a bumblebee haven -

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/beethechange/>.

Have fun with bugs at **Buglife**, and read the adventures of a jumping spider and a snail - <https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/children-and-schools/>.

Other activities for children include drawing, climbing trees and taking off their shoes!

Going barefoot helps children develop balance, body awareness and strong toes & arches.

Some ideas are splashing in puddles, balancing on a log, throwing beanbags with feet, and trying to draw with the feet!

Connecting with nature

The simplest way is to go outside and contemplate your garden, a park, the clouds, stars or sniff some flowers.

With the warmer weather coming up, connect with the smells, colours and textures of nature, and soak in the sun.

It's also the ideal time to treat our feet by connecting them with the earth... by walking barefoot!

Wildlife rescue

London Wildlife Protection are volunteers who rescue sick, injured, orphaned and trapped birds in London. If you find a bird that needs help, please call the emergency helpline on 07909 795 064 between 9am - midnight. Their website includes a video and very helpful advice on what to do when finding a pigeon, garden bird or waterbird in distress - www.londonwildlifeprotection.org.

See the **Pigeon Rescue Team** on Facebook for stories and tips on how to rescue pigeons, eg. using a hat or scarf and shopping bag, and how to keep them calm - <https://www.facebook.com/PigeonRescueTeam/>

The **RSPB** also offers helpful information on what to do if you see an injured bird, or spot a baby bird on its own - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/injured-and-baby-birds/>.