

Creating a Wildlife Friendly Garden

Creating a wildlife friendly garden is something the whole family can do together! Here are some top tips on how to create a wildlife friendly garden

- Create a bug hotel. Bug hotels vary greatly but all share the same purpose: inviting pollinator insects to come and to stay. Start your hotel by drilling holes into wood.
- Leave piles of rocks, twigs and rotting wood in your garden. These will create shelter for all sorts of important insects, such as beetles and spiders.
- Place a pond in a sheltered spot to provide water for birds and habitat for frogs. It doesn't have to be huge, you can use a buried bucket or trough. If you do want a big pond, make sure there are stones or branches to help wildlife get in and out. Ponds are best filled with unchlorinated rainwater
- Keep a worm farm
- Grow some grass or don't mow your grass for a while, grass is attractive to some bird species like magpies and noisy miners.
- Don't use any chemicals and pesticides in your garden
- Provide a simple birdbath in a place that is safe from cats. Your birdbath should only be shallow or have twigs inside so that the birds can easily climb out.
- Leave hollowed limbs of trees in your garden as nesting sites for birds and animals.
- Plant plants that attract bugs and insects. Nasturtium to attract ground beetles and spiders, yarrow, dill and gazania to attract ladybugs and hoverflies. Clover is great for attracting helpful bees.
- Provide a bird box as a home for birds. Put your bird box up high in a sheltered area
- Grow flowers. Flowers look beautiful and bring colour and scent into your garden. They also provide food for many insects.

