



Harmony Arboriculture

'How To Make A Wildlife Friendly Garden' by Harmony Arboriculture

10 simple ideas for improving garden biodiversity

- Plant native British trees. The flora and fauna of the British isles have survived together for thousands of years and are important to each other. Native tree species will promote associated British wildlife; something that we need to improve.
- Set aside a wildflower area in your garden. It doesn't need to be a huge area of unkempt garden, just a few metres square of native British wildflowers, often available in seed packets online or in garden centres. This will encourage bees and butterflies to visit and pollinate your flowers. Plants with lots of colour and scent are important for attracting pollinating insects.
- Dead trees needn't always be felled due to safety or aesthetic concerns. With proper management dead trees can remain a safe and important habitat for many species of insect, birds, bats and small mammals. Associated fungi may also be present on dead trees.
- If dead trees are unable to be retained, then piles of branches or logs stacked on the ground will provide shelter for a wide range of fauna such as slow worms, lizards, mice and hedgehogs.
- Make a pond. Ponds are not only useful for attracting aquatic flora, fauna and amphibians, but the associated insect life provides food for many animals, including a number of bat species.
- Try to keep chemical use down to a minimum. Over time a natural balance between predator and prey will develop.
- Nooks and crannies provide shelter for animals, as well as ideal places for climbing plants to get a grip on.
- Install habitat boxes for birds and bats. Birds will use nesting boxes to rear young, but some bats also use nesting boxes to hibernate in during the winter. Remember that it is illegal to disturb any nesting bird or bat without a proper licence. Other habitat boxes include ones for hedgehogs and insects.
- Using natural organic mulches on your flowerbeds not only reduces the amount of peat and soil dug out of the ground and transported from elsewhere, but it also provides foraging opportunities for garden mini-beats.
- Don't tidy up too much. Leave dead matter such as flower-heads and fallen leaves lying around a little longer than normal as these provide food. Heaps of garden waste act as shelter and may house important mammals such as dormice, or reptiles such as slow worms.