



Wildlife Friendly Gardens Handout

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Hedgehog Friendly Gardens



Untidy gardens are a haven for hedgehogs! Piles of leaves, fallen branches and compost heaps all help to make a hedgehog feel at home.

Small gaps in fences and walls are ideal routes for hedgehogs journeying from one garden to another.

Leave out, each day, shallow dishes of fresh water and special hedgehog food (or tinned dog or cat food). Hedgehogs can also eat small biscuits suitable for cats and dogs.

Build a hedgehog hotel by using old logs to make a log pile. The bigger, the better.



Never leave milk out for hedgehogs: it can cause tummy upsets.



Compost heaps attract insects - a hedgehog's favourite food.

Hedgehogs are excellent swimmers so there is no need to cover over your pond. However, make sure there is a gentle slope leading to and from the water so they can climb out easily.

When raking leaves in your garden, first check there are no hedgehogs nesting in there.





Feeding Hedgehogs

A Step-By-Step Guide



Put on gloves.



Get the food and water dish.



Empty the food and water dish.



Clean the dishes with warm water and soap.



Fill the water dish with fresh water.



Fill the food dish with food.



Place them in a quiet spot.



Take off the gloves and wash your hands.



Keep an eye out for hedgehog visitors.



Hedgehogs can eat tinned dog and cat food, dog and cat biscuits and special hedgehog food. Milk, bread and mealworms can make them sick so it's best to avoid those.



Feeding Hedgehogs



Check for hedgehogs
Check for hedgehogs before lighting a bonfire or mowing the grass.



Build a hedgehog hotel
Buy or build a hedgehog hotel.



Wash the dishes
Wash the bowls with hot, soapy water every day.



Avoid milk and bread
Don't feed dairy products, bread, or mealworms.



Minibeast Friendly Gardens

Minibeasts love variety. To attract a wide range of minibeasts to your garden, try these tips:

Leaving the grass longer will attract insects like grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars and ladybirds.

Avoid using leaf blowers which disturb and can hurt minibeasts.

Woodlice love living in dark, damp conditions so leaving small piles of leaves or creating a log pile will encourage them to live there.

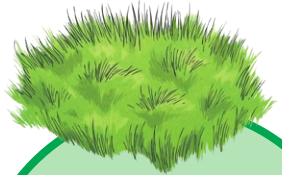
Water features and ponds attract minibeasts such as water boatmen, dragonflies and diving beetles. Another bonus of a pond is that it is ideal for encouraging frogs and toads into your garden too.

Create a bug hotel using old pieces of wood to make the structure. Or, you could use old plant pots and fill them with different natural materials found in your garden, such as logs, pine cones, sticks and leaves. Each material used will attract a different type of minibeast.

Avoid using pesticides.



Butterfly and Bee Friendly Gardens



Leaving your grass longer will allow wildflowers to grow.

If it is safe to do so, leave nettles growing.



Buddleia are sometimes known as a 'butterfly bush,' because... you guessed it, butterflies love them! These plants love a sunny spot but some varieties can grow quite large, though they smell wonderful.



Marjoram, sage, oregano and thyme growing in your herb patch will guarantee bee and butterfly visitors.



Create a specific wildflower area in your garden. Wildflowers grown from seed are easily grown and perfect for attracting butterflies and bees.



One of the best plants for attracting bees and butterflies is lavender. There are many varieties to choose from so get planting and your garden will smell gorgeous too!



The small, white flowers of a strawberry plant are a favourite amongst bees.



Bees are particularly attracted to blue flowers.



Bird Friendly Gardens




Encouraging bird visitors is really important to help spread seeds and pollen as well as helping to keep down insect numbers.

Place bird feeding stations in your garden and put out crumbs, mealworms, fat balls and bird seed for the birds.




Leave bird's nests undisturbed.

Real grass, rather than artificial grass, encourages the insects that birds like to feed on.




Planting native trees and shrubs helps attract native birds.




Keep a close eye on pet cats when birds visit.


Growing fruit in your garden will inevitably encourage bird visitors. If you are happy for them to share the fruit with you, leave the plants uncovered. If you do need to cover your fruit, use fine, mesh nets made of natural material.





Climbers, like honeysuckle and clematis, attract insects and can provide shelter for birds in the autumn as well as being a perfect source of nest-building materials.



Water features and bird baths are used by birds to drink from and bathe in.



Switch off outside lights at night. Bright lights can confuse birds and they may collide with windows.



Plant shrubs with berries such as holly and hawthorn to attract the birds.



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