

Help Garden for Carmarthenshire's Wildlife

Tips for enhancing your garden for biodiversity

This sheet is intended as a basic guide for house holders to help you enhance the value of your own backyard or garden for wildlife



Why garden for wildlife?



Gardens can support a wealth of wildlife. They can provide a refuge for a huge variety of birds and insects. Other species such as hedgehogs and amphibians may now have significant strongholds within our gardens.



Over recent years gardens have become increasingly important habitats for wildlife, including for many species now rare in the wider countryside. Gardens can also be important wildlife corridors. In our towns, a large proportion of available wildlife habitat is provided by gardens, which are the 'green lungs' of our urban environment.

Some gardening practises however may be detrimental from a wildlife perspective. Over use of pesticides and fertilisers, over-tidying of gardens, drainage of ponds and use of peat can all have a harmful effect. However, taking simple action means that we can all garden in a wildlife-friendly way.

Top tips to bring wildlife to your garden!



- Go organic! Avoid chemical fertilisers; make your own compost, encourage natural pest controllers such as frogs, toads and hedgehogs. gardenorganic.org.uk
- Plant native trees, shrubs and flower borders that will be more attractive to local bees and butterflies than exotic species. buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-gardening
- Plant a native hedge along the boundaries to your property that will provide cover, food, and a suitable nesting site for many birds. carmarthenshire.gov.wales – **biodiversity pages**
- Provide a water source for wildlife - create a garden pond or boggy area designed with wildlife in mind. freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/
- Bring vibrant colour into your garden by creating a wildflower meadow. wildlifeinthecity.org/images/uploads/minimeadow_template2.pdf
- Erect bird and bat boxes. bats.org.uk

- Feed birds throughout the year. rspb.org.uk
- Leave piles of logs or rocks in the garden as mini habitats for small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects. wildaboutgardens.org
- Don't use peat - there are viable peat-free composts that, if used, will help save our important peat habitats. wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-go-peat-free

For more information contact: Biodiversity Officer **01558 825390**; Biodiversity@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk

