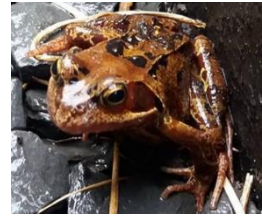


Make your garden more wildlife friendly

Gardens in towns and cities are really important for a wide range of plants and animals. The connections between gardens also allow animals to move around more. There is opportunity in every garden to make a little space for wildlife with some small changes.

Here are some species that you might spot in your garden!



Here are some ideas to make your garden more wildlife friendly!



1) Create a small pond

Use an old bowl or matting sunk into the ground to collect water, which is great for frogs, insects and as drinking water for birds and mammals. Add some pebbles and flowers on the edge to provide a nectar source for butterflies and bees.

2) Put up a bird feeder

Bird feeders are a great way to draw birds into your garden and help to feed them, particularly during the winter months. Hang your bird feeder close to shrubs to make it more appealing to birds that can hop onto it from the shrubs. Sunflower seeds are a great way to entice a range of birds into your garden.



3) Make your garden hedgehog friendly

Hedgehogs in the UK rely on gardens for food and shelter so leaving a section of your garden wild, collecting logs, branches and grass in a heap can provide a location for hedgehogs to hibernate. Also providing a route for hedgehogs to move between gardens is really important. If you find a sick or unwell hedgehog contact Hedgehog Haven Essex <http://www.hedgehoghavenessex.co.uk/index.html>

4) Plant some plants for wildlife

Bees are important for pollination of flowers and gardens can provide a great habitat for them. Not all flowers are good for pollinators and in general flowers which are more open provide a better opportunity for insects to collect nectar. Here are some examples that you can plant in your garden: Crocus, Crab apple, Snapdragon, Wallflower, Forget-me-not, Strawberry tree, Dahlia and many more.

