

# WILDLIFE GARDENING PACK



GARDEN  
FOR A  
LIVING  
LONDON

Help transform the capital's 3 million gardens into a network of nature reserves

[www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening)



TOWER HAMLETS





## GARDEN FOR A LIVING LONDON

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people.

They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up and retain flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the capital would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change.

London Wildlife Trust's 'Garden For A Living London' campaign is asking Londoners to do one thing to create a wildlife and climate friendly garden.

For more information on our campaign and to pledge your support visit [www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening)

**Create a wildlife and climate friendly garden and help transform the capital's 3 million gardens into a network of nature reserves.**

Your garden probably already supports a variety of wildlife. You might see blue tits and sparrows, butterflies and beetles, and watch the cheeky antics of squirrels and foxes. This pack aims to help you develop ways of attracting more wildlife to your garden and will give you tips on how to be a climate friendly gardener.

## Contents

### Wildlife gardens in London

**Climate change in the garden** Find out about the effects of climate change in the garden and how to be a more wildlife and climate friendly gardener.

**A butterfly garden** How to improve your flower borders and shrubberies to make an ideal environment for butterflies.

**Gardening for birds** How to improve your garden for blue tits, sparrows and other birds.

**Feeding birds** How to provide food for birds in your garden to help them through difficult times, for example when they are breeding or when natural food is scarce.

**A mini-meadow** How to create a habitat for crickets, grasshoppers and meadow butterflies such as meadow brown, ringlet and skippers.

**Pond building** How to create a centrepiece for the wildlife garden, and offer vital support for dragonflies, frogs and other water loving wildlife.

**Pond maintenance** How to keep your pond attractive and healthy.

**Wildlife on walls** How to green your walls for wildlife, and building your own bird boxes.

**Problem wildlife** How to maintain a balance in your garden, for example how to deal with slugs.

**Monitoring your wildlife garden** How to keep your own records and help London Wildlife Trust by adding to our records.

**Suppliers and contacts for more help**

Thames Water is supporting Garden For a Living London as part of their commitment to helping London become a more sustainable city.

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## Wildlife gardens in London

To get more ideas, to find out how a mini-meadow looks for real, or to talk to people who really manage a wildlife garden, try visiting one of the following demonstrations. Phone for access details, opening times, fees (if applicable), volunteering opportunities, and details of wildlife events.

These are community wildlife gardens, public gardens with an eye to sustainability or public nature areas. They may well be of interest and help to you.

### 1 London Wildlife Trust's Centre for Wildlife Gardening

This fantastic demonstration garden is friendly and accessible. Ponds, meadows, cornfield, and lots of ideas for small gardens in this oasis of calm.

Tel: 020 7252 9186 Peckham, Southwark  
[www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

### 2 The Water Efficient Garden at London Zoo

The animal displays would not be complete without a picture of wildlife on your doorstep. The delightful wildlife garden leads into a small meadow and spring underwater action is amazing in the wildlife pond.

Tel: 020 7722 3333, Camden  
[www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org)

### 3 The Wildlife Garden at The Natural History Museum

Wonderful mosaic of country lanes, chalk downland, fenland, and other patches of British countryside only a blackbird's flutter from the busy high street.

Tel: 020 7942 5000, Kensington.  
[www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

### 4 London Wetland Centre

Three sophisticated sustainable gardens bordering the wetland reserve have been designed by Arne Maynard, Isabelle von Groeninge, Cleeve West and Johnny Woodford.

Tel: 020 8409 4400 Barnes, Richmond Upon Thames  
[www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)

### 5 Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew

Possibly London's largest wildlife garden, the lawn mower is kept under a strict regime, allowing you to wander among tranquil meadows, marvel over bluebell woods, and view the biggest compost heap in the capital.

Tel: 020 8332 5000  
 Richmond Upon Thames  
[www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org)

### 6 Roe Green walled garden

Tel: 020 8904 5090, Brent  
[www.bhcg.ik.com](http://www.bhcg.ik.com)

### 7 Oasis Children's Nature Garden

Tel: 020 7498 2329  
 Lambeth  
[www.oasisplay.org.uk](http://www.oasisplay.org.uk)

### 8 Sunnyside Gardens

Tel: 020 7272 3522  
 Islington  
[www.sunnysidegarden.org.uk](http://www.sunnysidegarden.org.uk)

### 9 Gillespie Park

Tel: 020 7354 5162  
 Islington  
[www.wildweb.london.gov.uk](http://www.wildweb.london.gov.uk)

### 10 Meanwhile Gardens

Tel: 020 8960 7894  
 Kensington & Chelsea  
[www.wildweb.london.gov.uk](http://www.wildweb.london.gov.uk)

### 11 Camley Street Natural Park

Tel: 020 7833 2311, Camden  
[www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

### 12 Walworth Garden Farm

Tel: 020 7582 2652  
 Southwark  
[www.wildweb.london.gov.uk](http://www.wildweb.london.gov.uk)

### 13 Mudchute Farm Wildlife Pond

Tel: 020 7515 5901  
 Tower Hamlets  
[www.mudchute.org](http://www.mudchute.org)

### 14 Thrive Garden

Tel: 020 720 2212  
 Wandsworth  
[www.thrive.org.uk](http://www.thrive.org.uk)

### 15 Sutton Ecology Centre

Tel: 020 8770 5820, Sutton  
[www.sutton.gov.uk](http://www.sutton.gov.uk)

### 16 Moorlands Wildlife Garden

Tel: 020 7274 8378, Lambeth

### 17 Chelsea Physic Garden

Tel: 020 7352 5646, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
[www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk](http://www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk)

Look for local gardens with a wildlife theme to visit through the Yellow Book National Gardens scheme.

Tel: 01483 211535  
[www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

Phone your council Ecology Officer or Head of Parks to see if there are any projects nearer to you.

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## Climate Change in the Garden

Climate change is predicted to make our summers hotter and drier and our winters warmer and wetter. As a result, we are likely to experience overheating, droughts and flash-flooding, with an increased demand on water resources. The impact will probably be greatest in cities, where hard surfaces prevent water absorption into the ground. City gardens will therefore play an increasingly valuable part in helping us minimise and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Climate change will have a profound effect on our native wildlife, which has evolved over thousands of years and is now under pressure to adapt quickly to sudden shifts in weather patterns.

So what we see in our gardens is likely to change. The traditional English cottage garden, for example, that thrives on moist, well drained soils will need to be replaced in some areas by drought-tolerant gardens. Fewer frosts and earlier springs might mean that new diseases will establish more quickly. Foreign pests such as termites and red spider mites are likely to become more common. On a more positive note, some attractive or beneficial species, such as the long-tailed blue butterfly, may be able to successfully colonise British gardens.

An influx of new species attracted by the warmer climate could cause a shift in the balance of predators, pests and disease. Some of our native species will need help to adapt to these changes, for example by creating habitat links between gardens to allow species to move more freely across the city.

### More information

Gardening in the Global Greenhouse: The Impacts of Climate Change on Gardens in the UK, (2002) by The UK Climate Impacts Programme can be downloaded from

[www.rhs.org.uk/research/climate\\_change/climate\\_reports.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/research/climate_change/climate_reports.asp)

Sunshine garden: Helping you to adapt your garden to climate change by the Greater London Authority, London Wildlife Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society can be downloaded from

[www.london.gov.uk/sunshinegarden](http://www.london.gov.uk/sunshinegarden)

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## Climate Change in the Garden

### The value of gardens

Gardens can help people and wildlife to cope with the changing climate in many ways:

- They provide wildlife with food and shelter.
- They are valuable green links across landscapes, allowing species to move to places where the climate is more suitable.
- They help to absorb and retain water, thereby reducing the risk of flooding.
- Trees and vegetation in gardens provide cooling shade; this is especially important in cities, which tend to be several degrees hotter than the surrounding countryside.
- Ponds, trees and shrubs act as carbon sinks, absorbing and retaining carbon from the atmosphere.
- By viewing your garden as part of a living landscape, linked across neighbourhoods and cities, you can give wildlife the best opportunity to adapt to climate change and its effects.

### Tasks for a climate-friendly garden

Any of these tasks will make your garden a cooler and more climate-friendly space and will help to reduce the impact of climate change on your neighbourhood.

#### Minimise water Use

- Choose drought-tolerant plants for the hotter areas of your garden.
- Water plants in the early morning and evening when less water will evaporate.
- Retain moisture by mulching once or twice a year in spring and autumn. Spread a 5-10cm layer of organic peat free mulch around your plants and trees. This will also help to stabilise soil temperatures, as well as nourish your soil and provide habitat for micro-organisms.
- Check the weather forecast for rain. Only water if not enough rain falls.
- Grow your grass a little longer. It will stay greener than a close mown lawn and need less watering. Once a week is all the watering your lawn needs - even in the summer. Over watering can weaken your lawn by encouraging roots to seek the surface.
- A watering can allows you to direct the water to the root of the plant where it is needed. If you do need to use a hosepipe, remember to fit a trigger nozzle. (Hosepipes and sprinklers use 540 litres of an hour).
- For more water saving tips go to [www.thames2u.com](http://www.thames2u.com)

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# Climate Change in the Garden

## Retain rainwater

- Install one or more water butts to collect rainwater.
- Create a living roof on your shed or house to absorb water from heavy rainfall. It will also help to stabilise building temperatures and will provide additional wildlife habitat. Download 'How to add a green roof to your shed' from [www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening)
- Increase soft and porous areas, such as shrubbery or lawn.
- Avoid building impermeable hard surfaces because they increase water run-off after heavy rain and heat up rapidly.
- Use containers filled with plants on your decking or patio to help absorb rainwater run-off. They will also provide habitat and enable wildlife to move across your garden. Download 'How to wild up your decking' from [www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening)

## Create cool places for people and wildlife

- Plant one or more broad-leaved trees to cool surrounding buildings and provide nesting sites, food and shelter for wildlife. Aim for at least one native tree because they provide the best resources for native wildlife. Download 'How to plant a broad-leaved tree' from [www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening) and see [www.right-trees.org.uk](http://www.right-trees.org.uk) for ideas. Be careful not to plant trees too close to buildings, especially in areas with clay soils.
- Plant a mixed hedge using mainly native plant species to create shade. It will also provide wildlife habitat and help to link your garden with nearby greenspaces. Download 'How to plant a mixed hedgerow' from [www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening)
- Insulate your home or shed by training vertical plants, such as ivy, up the outside walls. This will also help to absorb storm water and will provide good wildlife habitat.

## Create carbon sinks

- Plant trees and shrubs and create a pond to absorb carbon dioxide, reducing further contributions to climate change.

Save water with a special water butt offer from Thames Water. Go to [www.thames2u.com](http://www.thames2u.com)

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# Climate Change in the Garden

## Work with Nature

- Think of different areas of your garden as different habitats with different needs. Areas that become waterlogged, for example, will be suitable boggy spots while hot sunny spots will be good places to grow food plants for butterflies.
- Use existing features to establish a variety of habitats, including areas of dry and moist shade, thicker areas of vegetation for nesting and shelter, areas for long grass and sunny spots for nectar-producing flowers.
- Take wildlife into account in your maintenance regime.
- Mow meadows and long grass after flowers have set seed.
- Trim hedges after birds have nested and berries have been eaten.
- In autumn, leave dead flower heads as food for birds and stalks as nesting habitat for invertebrates.
- Leave some damp and leafy corners for birds, invertebrates and amphibians.
- Don't worry about being too tidy. If you have to sweep up, leave piles for about an hour to let trapped animals disperse.
- Maintain a natural balance by using organic and peat free materials and minimise use of chemical pesticides and herbicides.
- Choose disease-resistant plant species to reduce the need for pesticides.
- Save money and resources by making your own compost from garden and kitchen waste and make your own fertiliser from nettles or comfrey.
- Create a log pile or some standing dead wood. It can be an architectural feature and will provide excellent habitat for stag beetles, fungi and lichens.

## Work Together

- Share ideas with other gardeners and encourage them to garden in a wildlife-friendly and climate-friendly way.
- Join a local scheme such as a plant swap.
- Look at what plants grow well in nearby gardens because they will probably grow well in yours.

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# A Butterfly Garden

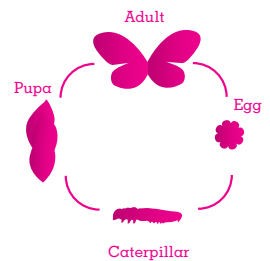
## Butterflies in your garden

Watch out for the silent summer fluttering of garden visitors like the red admiral and peacock. If you live in north London you are slightly more likely to see the wall brown butterfly, often called 'the London Eye' during the eighteenth century. South of the Thames, you have more chance of seeing a speckled wood, which is so-called because it is often seen in woodland and shady places.

## Butterflies and moths in London

Butterflies are found in a range of habitats in London. Some are quite uncommon, like the richly-coloured purple hairstreak only found in the canopy of oak trees, others like the meadow brown can be found in long grass in many parks and gardens. The chalk meadows to the south of London are particularly delightful, look here for marbled whites and dark green fritillaries as well as the rare and secretive small blue. Some butterflies like the Camberwell beauty and the red admiral only come to this country during summer, spending winter in the warmer climate of continental Europe.

**The butterfly life cycle - the different stages need different foods, herbaceous foodplants for the caterpillars, and rich nectar for the adult butterflies.**



|                     | Jan                  | Feb | Mar                          | Apr              | May           | Jun           | July      | Aug         | Sept                          | Oct                           | Nov               | Dec |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Common blue         |                      |     |                              |                  |               |               |           |             |                               |                               |                   |     |
|                     | hibernates           |     | black medick, restharrow     |                  | on clover etc |               |           |             |                               | hibernates at base of grasses |                   |     |
| Meadow brown        |                      |     |                              |                  |               |               |           |             |                               |                               |                   |     |
|                     | hibernates           |     | Feeds on smooth meadow grass |                  | mates         |               |           |             | hibernates at base of grasses |                               |                   |     |
| Orange-tip          |                      |     |                              |                  |               |               |           |             |                               |                               |                   |     |
|                     |                      |     |                              | On cuckoo flower |               |               |           |             |                               |                               |                   |     |
| Holly blue          |                      |     |                              |                  |               |               |           |             |                               |                               |                   |     |
|                     |                      |     |                              |                  |               | on holly buds |           | on ivy buds |                               |                               | dormant among ivy |     |
| Small tortoiseshell |                      |     |                              |                  |               |               |           |             |                               |                               |                   |     |
|                     | hibernates           |     |                              |                  | on nettle     |               | on nettle |             |                               | hibernates in cracks          |                   |     |
| Red admiral         |                      |     |                              |                  |               |               |           |             |                               |                               |                   |     |
|                     | migrate to S. Europe |     |                              | arrives          |               | on nettle     |           | on nettle   |                               | flies south                   |                   |     |

## Nettles

Are an important foodplant for the caterpillars of peacock, small tortoiseshell, red admiral and comma. A sunny spot is essential so butterflies can find them. Put them in a big pot if you don't want them in your border. Cut back in late June to get new growth for the second brood of caterpillars. Excellent compost activator too.

*If you are interested in taking part in a survey of butterflies in your garden this summer, contact Butterfly Conservation on 01929 400209 or go to [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)*

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# A Butterfly Garden

## Choosing plants for butterflies and bees

- Always choose single flowered varieties. A mixture of flowers provides food for a wide range of insects.
- Link sunny borders around the edge of your garden for choice browsing. Aim to have plants in flower from February to November, all the time when hungry butterflies are on the wing (see the calendar overleaf).
- Avoid planting for only one season at the expense of others, but expect to find most butterflies in summer.

## Good nectar flowers for butterflies

Butterflies' taste in flowers will vary slightly from year to year, depending on climatic conditions, and availability of alternative food sources. These common plants are some top favourites

### Spring

Blackthorn  
Bramble  
Willow  
Valerian  
Red valerian  
Honesty  
Forget-me-not  
Aubretia  
Hebe  
Woundwort  
Alyssum  
Wallflower  
Primrose  
Hyacinth  
Statice  
French marigold  
Marjoram  
Runner bean  
Ivy  
Heather

### Summer

Campions  
Ragged robin  
Birds-foot trefoil  
Raspberry  
Teasel  
Hemp agrimony  
Common fleabane  
Yarrow  
Cranesbill  
Knapweed  
Thistle  
Chives  
Wild thyme  
Buddleia  
Field scabious  
Lobelia  
Phlox  
Lavender  
Mint  
Privet  
Statice  
French marigold  
Marjoram  
Runner bean  
Ivy  
Heather

### Autumn

Goldenrod  
Devil's bit scabious  
Honeysuckle  
Nasturtium  
Ice plant  
Michaelmas daisy  
Verbena

## Design

Put your butterfly border against a south-facing wall to absorb heat and give tired butterflies a chance to warm up. In the sun at the front of the border you can put a 'basking stone' a large upturned flowerpot, or make your own artificial boulder from Geoff Hamilton's mix of two parts coir, two parts sharp sand and one part Portland cement.

## Moths

Watch out for spectacularly large and elegant hawkmoths, with caterpillars the size of a little finger, or the small intensely red and black burnet moths, which fly by day. Supply night time nectar for late fliers with evening primrose, nicotiana, honeysuckle, and night-scented stock.

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## A Butterfly Garden

### Essential caterpillar food plants remember they need sunshine!

Birds-foot trefoil or black medick  
Dock or sorrel  
Garlic mustard or dames violet

Cuckoo flower  
Stinging nettle  
Hop  
Holly and ivy  
Common or alder buckthorn  
Nasturtium  
Honesty  
Sweet Rocket

#### Grasses

Annual meadow grass  
Cocksfoot

Sheeps fescue  
Timothy  
Yorkshire fog

Common blue  
Small copper  
Orange tip, painted lady, large,  
small and green-veined whites  
Orange tip  
Small tortoiseshell, comma, peacock, red admiral  
Comma  
Holly blue  
Brimstone  
Large white, small white  
Orange-tip  
Orange-tip

Meadow brown, gatekeeper, wall brown  
Large skipper, ringlet, meadow brown,  
speckled wood  
Meadow brown, grayling  
Skippers, marbled white  
Skippers

### Some of the best flowers for bumbles

Fat and furry bumble bees need nectar too and need our help in getting it, as many species are rare or threatened. Try these flowers for happy humble bumbles, remember single-flowered varieties have most nectar and pollen.

Selfheal  
Primrose  
Deadnettle  
Vetches  
Comfrey  
Borage  
Bluebell  
Forget-me-not  
Purple loosestrife  
Beans  
Nasturtium  
Goldenrod  
Clovers  
Lupins  
Hyssop  
Hawthorn  
Raspberry  
Apple  
Azalea  
Flowering currant  
Gorse  
Foxglove

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## Gardening for Birds

### Birds In Your Garden

A well designed garden, or group of gardens, can support whole families of sparrows, treecreepers, robins, and thrushes, as well as visiting birds from nearby parks and woods. As well as a bird table, your perfect bird garden will provide shelter, natural food, nesting space and safe highways around the neighbourhood.

### Birds in London

Different birds are found in many of London's habitats - watch for heron and teal on the Thames, greater spotted woodpecker and nuthatch in woods and wooded parks, black redstart and linnet in scrubby wastelands, and robin and song thrush in your local park. You might find a flock of sand martins in the Lea Valley, hear a tawny owl out hunting in Richmond Park or see a peregrine falcon soaring overhead almost anywhere.

### Trees and shrubs for a bird garden in London

| Native Shrubs              | Cover | Insects | Nectar | Fruit | Other information   |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------------------|
| Spindle                    | *     |         | *      | ***   |                     |
| Dogwood                    | *     |         | ***    | ***   |                     |
| Wild roses                 | **    |         | **     | **    |                     |
| Wild privet                | **    | *       | ***    | ***   | privet hawkmoth     |
| Wayfaring tree             | **    | *       | **     | ***   |                     |
| Holly                      | ***   | *       | *      | ***   |                     |
| Hazel                      | **    | *       |        |       |                     |
| Hawthorn                   | ***   | **      | **     | ***   |                     |
| Blackthorn                 | ***   | *       | **     | ***   |                     |
| Alder buckthorn            | ***   | *       | **     | ***   | brimstone butterfly |
| Juniper                    | ***   | **      |        | *     |                     |
| <b>Exotic shrubs</b>       |       |         |        |       |                     |
| Firethorn                  | ***   |         | *      | ***   | red is best         |
| Cotoneaster                | ***   |         | *      | ***   |                     |
| Berberis                   | ***   |         | *      | ***   |                     |
| Climbing roses             | ***   |         |        |       |                     |
| Lilac                      | *     |         | ***    |       |                     |
| Currant                    | **    | ***     |        |       | red is best         |
| Mahonia                    | **    | **      |        |       |                     |
| <b>Medium native trees</b> |       |         |        |       |                     |
| Osier (basket willow)      | *     | ***     | **     |       |                     |
| Goat willow                | **    | ***     | **     |       |                     |
| Crab apple                 | **    | ***     | ***    | ***   |                     |
| Field maple                | **    | **      |        |       |                     |
| Wild cherry                | *     | *       | **     | ***   |                     |
| Silver birch               | *     | ***     |        |       | seed for finches    |
| Fruit trees                | *     | *       | **     | ***   |                     |
| <b>Large native trees</b>  |       |         |        |       |                     |
| Ash                        |       | *       | **     |       |                     |
| Oak                        |       | **      | ***    |       |                     |
| Alder                      |       | **      | ***    |       |                     |

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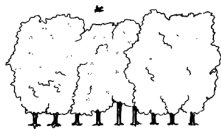




## Safe havens

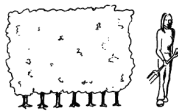
There is much concern in London about the impact of predation from magpies, squirrels, crows, cats and other nest-raiders on the small birds that we like to see and hear in our gardens. Most of these predators are particularly associated with areas with lots of tall open trees. Sparrows, blue-tits, robins, and other birds will be safer if you provide lots of dense thorny bushes for them to hide in. Magpies and cats cannot squeeze between blackthorn spikes but a wren can. Try to link shrubby areas in your garden, with bushes and small trees in the gardens of your neighbours, providing protection on both sides of the fence.

# Gardening for Birds



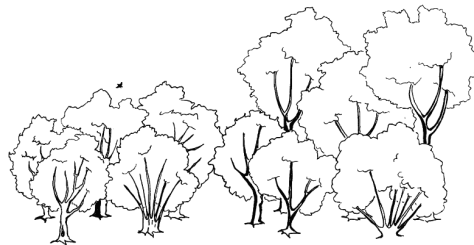
### Country style hedge

Deliberately dense and thorny to deter predators - also thieves!



### Tapestry hedge

Autumn leaves retained for extra cover.



### Shrubbery or copse

Looser planting, flowers and fruits encouraged.

### Mini woodland

One or more small trees, with shrubs giving cover.

#### creation

Dig a trench to plant shrubs at 30cm spacing. Or use a double row for extra density. Cut each plants stem and branches back halfway to encourage bushiness.

As for country style hedge

Plant at irregular intervals, at 1-2m spacing

Plant at irregular intervals, at 2 - 3m spacing. If against a fence, keep shrubs at front. Allow small pathways if large 20 - 40 % small trees.

#### trees & shrubs

80-90% hawthorn, blackthorn, buckthorn, crab apple, roses 10-20% hazel, guelder rose, maple, wayfaring tree, spindle, privet, plum.

oak, hornbeam, beech, maple, yew, holly

hazel, buckthorn dogwood, privet guelder rose, plum wayfaring tree, ash osier, field maple

silver birch, whitebeam, holly, hawthorn, cherry rowan, crab apple goat willow, maple 60-80% shrubs - as shrubbery or copse.

#### maintenance

Full cut every two years in winter or cut half every year to leave cover. Leave 5% of trees to grow. Aim for a minimum height of 1.6m to encourage birds to nest. Lay or coppice after 10 years to keep a thick dense hedge.

Trim front and back to encourage sideways and upwards growth. Coppice alternate shrubs after 10 years.

Coppice some shrubs every 2-10 years, by cutting back to max 20cm height in winter. Cut different shrubs in different years.

Allow trees to grow to maximum height - cut any stray branches cleanly in winter. Coppice shrubs as shrubbery.

- All trees and shrubs should be planted at least 30cm from any fence.
- Water in as soon as planted to help the soil settle, and continue to water if the first spring is dry.
- Mulching with wood chips, leaf mould, old carpet strips, or other mulch will help reduce competition and allow the hedge to grow better.
- Never water lightly, as this encourages the roots to the surface - drench each tree with a bucketful of water.
- Trees and shrubs may be underplanted with bulbs and woodland flowers the following year. For ferns, add lots of leaf mould to retain water.

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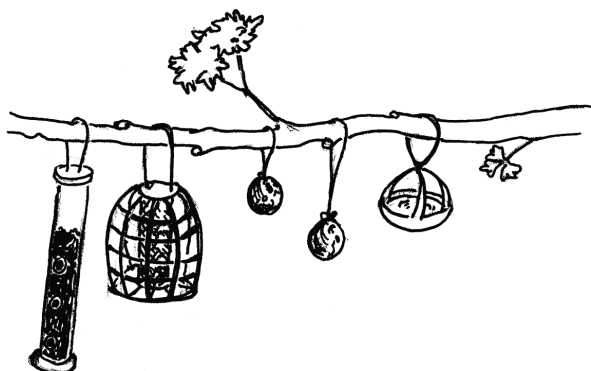
# Feeding Birds

## Feeding birds in your garden

Gardens in London can easily support families of blue tit, great tit, robin, wren and blackbird. The fuss around your bird table might attract the interest of others including greater spotted woodpecker, long tailed tit, greenfinch, treecreeper and other normally shy birds. Woodpigeons provide a pleasure all of their own as they balance on thin twigs. And the sound of swifts overhead is the sound of summer.

## Feeding birds in London

If you enjoy feeding mallards, coots, and other water birds in your local park remember that this can sometimes have a damaging effect. Many park ponds have become seriously polluted from excess rotting bread thrown for ducks so look first for a feeding beach or check with park staff to ensure you use the right type of food. You can also feed birds in many ecology centres and city farms, where bird feeding areas and bird tables are provided.



The restaurant in your garden could serve a comprehensive menu

## Nutritious bird foods for your table or feeding station

**Feed birds regularly, not just when cold weather strikes as they need to know where food is when needed.**

- Sunflower seeds - in a loose feeder
- Grain mixes - including millet, oatmeal, canary seed, hemp and wheat in a loose feeder
- Peanuts - in a mesh feeder. Small birds can choke on loose nuts
- Breakfast cereal crumbs - use the leftovers in the bottom of the packet
- Fruit and berries
- Half coconuts
- Bacon rind
- Fatballs in winter
- Lard cake in winter - mix lard, cereals, crushed peanuts, and grains, decorate with raisins if desired
- Pine cones dipped in melted lard - in winter
- Peanuts in their shell - strung on a string in winter only
- Mealworms and other live food in spring
- Oystershell grit - to add calcium to help build strong healthy eggs

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# Feeding Birds

## Natural food is best

Your bird feeding station should act as a supplement to natural food. Plant your garden to provide a rich source of insects, seeds and berries, for as much of the year as possible.

Think about birds' food needs:

|                 |      |                                                                      |
|-----------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blackbird       | eats | worms and beetles, seeds, berries, fruits.                           |
| Greenfinch      | eats | seeds of thistle, sunflower, teasels, alder. Chicks eat insects.     |
| Treecreeper     | eats | insects on twigs and bark.                                           |
| Long-tailed tit | eats | insects and seeds.                                                   |
| House sparrow   | eats | seeds of grasses, cereals, weeds like redshank and fat hen, insects. |
| Song thrush     | eats | snails, worms, other invertebrates, berries, fruit.                  |

## Perfectly place your bird feeder station

- Where you can watch it from a window or hidden bench.
- Away from bird boxes - birds are territorial and will not appreciate the company.
- Among, or very near, thorny cover to hide in.
- Away from sturdy trees, open fences and other cat-leaps.

## Don't forget water!

All birds need water to keep their feathers clean and to drink. A bird bath is a wonderful focus for a garden, but could be replaced by a cheaper pot stand or shallow bowl. A shallow dish of water on your bird table will allow all who dine to drink as well. Fill your bird bath with water collected in a water butt. Change the water in your bird bath regularly - birds do not like using their friends' bathwater. Make sure you rinse the bath out too.

## A helping hand at nest-building time

Help home-building garden birds

Come springtime garden birds start the frantic search for materials to build and insulate the perfect nest. You can give them a hand by putting out suitable nesting materials. Try hanging bundles of straw, fine sticks, shredded woollen jumpers and bunches of grasses close to your feeding station. Your bundles should last through to the summer season of second broods.

## Don't poison your birds!

Peanuts and corn can be susceptible to a deadly fungal infection. Legal standards for bird food are lower than for humans - but birds eat more peanuts than most people. Avoid the risk and always buy bird food which has been accredited by the Bird Food Standards Association. It is vital to clear up any uneaten food and clean your feeders regularly (without bleach).

Garden Bird watch is an ongoing national survey of garden birds. Go to [www.bto.org.uk](http://www.bto.org.uk)

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# Mini Meadow

## A mini-meadow in your garden

A mini-meadow in your garden will provide a damp environment for hunting frogs and toads, delicate grasses for specialist butterflies to lay their eggs on, and a home for grasshoppers and crickets. A larger meadow might give you a home for moles and could attract goldfinches. Old meadows and pasture land are a wonderful part of our countryside. They are fragile habitats where grasses and wildflowers grow, rare butterflies breed, and small mammals forage. While many animals depend on these meadows, they are a man-made environment. Centuries of grazing and cropping may have lead to an extremely poor soil, which does not become woodland because of ongoing grazing.

## Meadows in London

If you want to look for butterflies and shrews in a meadow near London, visit in July. Try one of these nature reserves, managed by the London Wildlife Trust (go to [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk) for details)

- London Wildlife Trust's Saltbox Hill - Croydon
- London Wildlife Trust's Frays Farm Meadows - Hillingdon

## Making your mini-meadow

- Ideal time to start:- September-October, Good time to start:- February-March
- Stick a spade in the ground to check your soil type and check the level of sunshine, and plan your meadow in a sunny spot.
- Spring and summer meadows based on wild grasses (especially those grown from seed) will establish stronger roots and a thicker sward if mown regularly in the first year. Any unwanted docks, nettles or other unwanted plants can be removed with a trowel in spring or autumn.
- Mark out and measure the area. If other people mow the garden you may need to define the edge with a low fence or wooden edging. Decide which of the following planting methods is more appropriate for you.

### Planting plugs or pots into a lawn

Place your wildflowers in random patterns in your meadow patch. Use a trowel to cut a pot-sized hole into the turf for each wildflower, then plant directly into these holes. To plant bulbs, lift a square of turf, then use a bulb-planter to place singly, at about twice their own depth, pointy end up. Replace the turf. If you want to use seed as well, you should cut lines into the turf first, as it will not germinate if sprinkled on top. Growing from plugs is a little quicker and more reliable, works well in existing turf, but costs more. You will need between 3 - 15 plants per metre. Use less for a two-year meadow which produces larger plants.

### Growing from a seed mix in bare ground

Weed the area, and dig it over then rake to a fine tilth. Firm it with boards or a roller. Mix your seed really well, then add about three times the volume of fine sand to help you spread it properly. Sprinkle the mix through your fingertips walking back and forth and crossways across your mini-meadow. Water the seed in with a watering can, and firm it carefully with a small board. Cover the patch with a square of chicken wire to keep cats off. Meadow seed mixes are now available from a number of suppliers, and are a cheap way of establishing a mini-meadow. Cornfields grow quickly from seed.

## Ideas to reduce soil fertility

- Strip the turf • Strip the topsoil • Grow a potato crop
- Grow a green manure like buckwheat then add it to the compost heap
- Add gravel or sandy soil

## Make hay while the sun shines:

**Cut** Using shears, a strimmer, or a good lawnmower cut the entire area down. Leave the cuttings where they are for a few days to allow seed to fall and invertebrates to escape.

**Mow** Monthly mowing, or grazing, will keep the grass manageable and encourage the roots to develop well. Mow at the highest setting on your mower.

**Cut and Hoe** Annuals need soil that is disturbed every year, if you are working in a very small patch, you might prefer to harvest the seed and put it directly back into the ground yourself.

**Trim** Woodland grasses and plants will only need a light trim and weed. Remember when you are cutting your meadow or daisy lawn to rescue any frogs and toads first! Meadows take time to establish - choose a cornfield mix if instant effect is important to you.

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# Mini Meadow

## Choices

|                 | Soil type                                         | Plant ideas                                                                                                                                                            | Yearly Management |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
|                 |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                        | Jan               | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Spring Meadow   | Low fertility<br>Sunny aspect                     | Cowslip, salad burnet, self heal, daffodil, grape hyacinth, crocus<br>If damp: snakeshead fritillary, cuckoo flower, ragged robin, fine grasses eg. sweet vernal grass |                   |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Summer Meadow   | Low fertility<br>Free draining soil, sunny aspect | Ox-eye daisy, field scabious, devils-bit scabious, knapweed, agrimony, lady's bedstraw, tufted vetch, meadow buttercup<br>Fine grasses eg. crested dogstail, timothy   |                   |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Two-year meadow | Medium fertility<br>Sunny aspect                  | Teasel, cow parsley, wild carrot, chicory, evening primrose, goldenrod, Michaelmas daisy, Tough grasses eg cocksfoot, tall fescue                                      |                   |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Daisy Lawn      | Medium fertility<br>Sunny aspect                  | Daisy, creeping buttercup, red and white clover, birdsfoot trefoil, black medick, Lawn grasses eg fescue, perennial rye grass                                          |                   |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Woodland glade  | Medium fertility<br>Damp shade                    | Primrose, bugle, foxglove, hedge bedstraw, wood avens, bluebell, snowdrop, Shade-tolerant grasses and sedges, eg. reed sweet grass, wood sedge                         |                   |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |
| Cornfield       | Medium-high fertility                             | Corn poppy, corncockle, corn marigold, cornflower, pheasants eye, borage, Cereals - wheat, rye, oats                                                                   |                   |     |     |     |     |      |      |     |      |     |     |     |



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# Pond Building

## Ponds in your garden

A pond in your garden will provide a focal point for people to watch wildlife and will be a resource for local animals which might include breeding dragonflies, and damselflies, spawning frogs, toads and newts, water boatmen and pond skaters.

## Ponds in London

In the wild, many ponds are temporary and seasonal habitats, formed in river flood plains, wetlands or loops of rivers. Most of the animals that take advantage of pond environments are able to travel by land or air and to survive late summer drought, but are not able to survive in larger or moving water bodies. If you want to see good pond habitats in London (contact London Wildlife Trust on 020 7261 0447 or [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)) visit:

- London Wildlife Trust's Centre for Wildlife Gardening
- London Wildlife Trust's Camley Street Natural Park
- London Wildlife Trust's Fishponds Wood and Beverley Meads

## Perfect pond building

### Perfectly place your pond

- In a fairly sunny spot, to attract dragonflies and basking frogs.
- Away from trees.
- Where you can sit and enjoy it.
- Linked to other good wildlife habitats, like meadow or marshy areas.
- Fill up and top up your pond with captured rainwater where possible.

## Do you want your liner to last?

- Remove all stones and line the smoothly dug pond hole with sand, newspaper, old carpet, or other padding to protect the liner.
- Look after your liner - unroll it into the hole, do not stretch it or walk on it
- Cover your liner with a layer of protective overliner. If you cannot find this in your garden centre, you can use geotextile, (available from builders merchants). It will need weighting down in places with smooth stones.

## How much liner?

Measure your pond's length and width, and depth. Your liner should be

- As long as the length + twice the depth.
- As wide as the width + twice the depth.

For a small pond, allow a little more for the edges.

## Shop around and save money

Liners come in different thicknesses, so it can be difficult to tell if you are getting value for money. Ask how long different liners are guaranteed for to compare prices, then buy the strongest you can afford.

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## Pond Building

### Plants for your wildlife pond

\* = Only for larger ponds, as rather large

#### Free floating oxygenators

Hornwort  
Water milfoil  
Water starwort  
Curled pondweed  
Willow moss  
Water crowfoot

#### Floating leaved plants

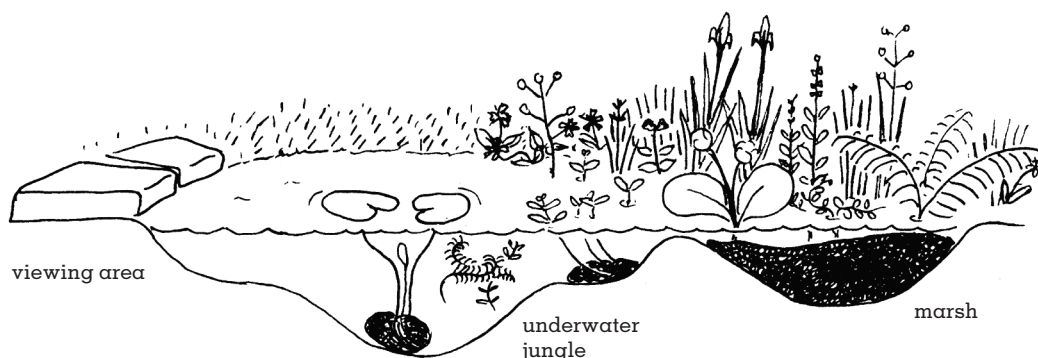
Frogbit  
Fringed water lily  
Water soldier  
Broad leaved pondweed \*  
Amphibious bistort

#### Marginals for cover in shallow water or marshy areas

Brooklime  
Bur reed  
Flowering rush  
Water forget-me-not  
Water plantain  
Yellow flag iris  
Marsh marigold  
Arrowhead  
Bogbean \*

#### Marsh plants for damp places

Purple loosestrife  
Valerian  
Water mint  
Water figwort  
Soft rush  
Pendulous sedge  
Meadowsweet  
Ragged robin  
Cuckoo flower



### Beware!

The following plants are extremely invasive, and may cause a problem in your pond or colonise nearby nature areas and block up aquatic habitat: New Zealand pygmyweed, water fern, parrots feather, Nuttall's pondweed, marsh pennywort. Reedmace can penetrate thin pond liners.

### Don't drown any hedgehogs!

If you are building a pond, (even one that is not intended for wildlife), please make sure it has at least one side with a good slope on it to allow animals that fall in to escape. Importantly, a plank into the middle of the pond will not work as mammals will swim along the edges looking for their escape. If you inherit a steep sided pond, chicken wire or netting run down the edge will help four-legged friends climb out.

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# Pond Maintenance

## Pond maintenance

Once you have built your wildlife pond, there will be some simple maintenance tasks to complete so that you can keep it beautiful and buzzing with wildlife. Most jobs are concerned with managing the growth of pond plants and removing dead leaves to make sure the pond stays healthy.

## Summer maintenance

You can allow the water level to fluctuate naturally, but most people prefer to keep their pond water at a constant level. Ideally top your pond up using rainwater. If you use a hose use a sprinkler setting. Pond plants will need controlling because they grow rapidly. Aim to keep the pond about three-quarters full with plants (less plants invite more algae to grow):

- Excess pondweed - remove by hand every few weeks.
- Growth of filamentous algae - remove it by hand, or wind it round a stick
- Growth of other algae - put a bundle of barley straw in the water
- Duckweed - remove it by running a light rake across the surface, or using a hose to chase it into a corner
- Water fern (azolla) - try to pick it off it as soon as you see the little red leaves. If established, it will be hard to get rid of but should disappear in a few years. If you have lots, remove using same methods as for duckweed.

After removal, pond plants should be left in a pile at the side of the pond to allow any trapped wildlife to return to the water. You can of course search through the pile to give a helping hand.

## Winter care

Most major works should be done in autumn when there is less activity in the pond, but before wildlife living in the pond goes into hibernation.

## Every year:

- Remove the looser vegetation so that just a quarter of the pond is dense with plants.

## Every two/three years:

- Lift reeds, iris and other plants with rhizomatous roots, split them with a saw or a sharp knife and plant one third back in.
- If you get vigorous summer growth of algae to the extent that oxygenating plants cannot survive - you have a nutrient problem. You may need to drain the pond to clear out the silt, and refill with fresh water. Try to discover and remove the nutrient source (eg run off at lawn fertiliser).

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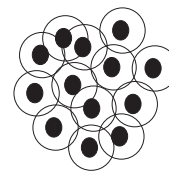


# Pond Maintenance

## Frogs and toads

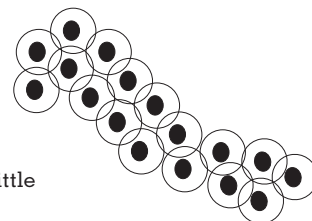
**Frogs** have smooth skin in a range of colours, and strong back legs for jumping. They need low dense evergreen plants round the pond in which to shelter and hunt for insects and slugs, crevices around the garden, and deeper hollows in ponds to hibernate in.

Frogspawn is found in clumps.



**Toads** have warty skin, and weaker legs. They can crawl up to a mile. They usually prefer bigger deeper ponds for spawning and more often shelter in the corner of a garden, ignoring the pond. Toads have a particular fondness for ants. Toad tadpoles can survive predation by goldfish better than frog tadpoles.

Toadspawn is laid in long strips.



## Newts

Males have crests, females are smooth, they only have little legs so can't walk very far from the pond, and hibernate nearby under logs and stones. Newts wrap each of their eggs in a leaf of pondweed.

Contact Froglife for more information if frogs or toads in your pond appear to be diseased, go to [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)

## Leaks

If your pond level drops dramatically in summer, do not presume it is a leak. Pond plants drink a lot of water. If the level drops rapidly on cloudy windless days, you probably have a leak.

- Autumn is the best time to fix leaks.
- Allow the water level to settle to help you find the leak.
- If the leak is near the top of the pond, you have a messy job of lifting plants and turning back the overliner to find the leak.
- If you think it is deeper down, it will probably be easier to drain the pond first - hire a mechanical pump and fit a filter over it.
- Use a bicycle repair kit to repair small leaks. If a leaking pond is over fifteen years old it may be simpler to lift everything out and put in a new liner.

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## Wildlife on Walls

### Wildlife on walls

Wildlife on walls around your home might include swifts and swallows nesting under the eaves, pipistrelle bats roosting under a windowsill in summer, and peacock butterflies warming up on a sunny wall in early spring. Watch for hunting spiders along the base of walls and robins nesting in your hanging baskets.

If you have a garden, greening your walls will benefit local wildlife, providing nesting space and cover for birds and insects, as well as extra nectar for butterflies.

If you do not have a garden, then your greener walls and balcony may provide vital links between local green spaces for butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

If you are in a block of flats, try to persuade your neighbours to green their balconies at the same time as yours, then you will provide a more worthwhile resource for hungry blackbirds, bumble bees, and butterflies, as well as a spectacular show to passers by.

### Climbing ideas for different conditions

#### North facing walls

- Ivy - a supreme wildlife plant associated with 230 species of wildlife. Provides evergreen cover for nesting birds, and late nectar for hungry butterflies.
- Honeysuckle - provides nectar for butterflies and moths, and berries for birds
- Traveller's joy - charming fluffy 'old man's beard'; provides seeds in autumn, and a mass of stems for birds to hide in.

#### East facing walls

- Climbing roses - a safe thicket for nesting blackbirds
- Hydrangea petiolaris - nectar for butterflies, shelter for birds and bats.
- Hop - provides cover for birds and leafy food for the caterpillar of the comma butterfly.

#### South facing walls

- Wisteria - nectar rich flowers and strong stems for summer nesting birds (make sure soil is well watered).
- Grape vine - fruit for butterflies, moths and birds.
- Figs - these and other fruits can be trained, and shared with the birds.
- Bare walls - for hunting spiders, and basking butterflies enjoying the heat.

#### West facing walls

- *Clematis armandii* - early nectar for early bees, and evergreen cover for spring nesting birds. Give it some space and it will reward you with fragrance.
- Star jasmine - Another evergreen giving shelter to roosting and nesting birds. Give it lots of water during the growing season.
- Passion flower - amazing flowers, nectar and fruit, needs thin wires for the spiralling tendrils to cling to.
- Pyrocantha - choose an erect red-berried variety like *P. coccinea*.

#### General tips:

- Always plant climbers and shrubs at least 30cm from the wall, to make sure that they get enough rainwater.
- Fix horizontal supports to your wall and vertical wires. Birds can use the ledges to nest on.
- Climbers will generally protect rather than damage your walls, but do make sure that they don't get behind gutters and drainpipes, as they may push these off.
- Trim your climbers back like a hedge when they get too big.

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## Wildlife on Walls

### Save our sparrows

Sparrows are declining in London. Nobody has a complete answer as to why numbers of these cheeky birds have dropped by as much as 90% in some areas, and we are all working to try to understand more. With some basic carpentry skills you can contribute to the local well-being of these birds by providing nesting sites on your walls.

Your nest boxes should be made from untreated wood at least 15mm thick, with no gaps for the wind to whistle through. The box needs a lid which is fastened down, and a waterproof strip across the top to keep rain out.

### Fixing

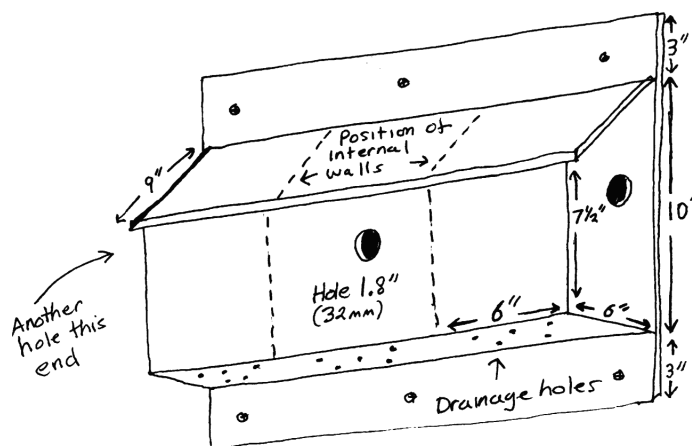
- Fix your nest box to a batten which is fixed to the wall, to prevent it from rotting.
- Site the box at least 2 metres off the ground.
- Site it on a wall which is not too hot or too cold.
- Away from bird feeding areas (birds are territorial).
- Somewhere you can watch from a window.

### Cleaning

Clean out old nesting material carefully in late autumn, in order to remove any parasites. Wear gloves and wash well afterwards. Don't be in too much of a hurry, because birds sometimes carry on using a box at night after the young have flown and need the old nest to keep warm. They may rear more than one brood too. Use only hot water for cleaning.

### Pecking order

Create an entrance hole that is 25mm for blue tits only, 28mm for great tits to squeeze through, 32mm for sparrows, larger for starlings.



Unlike many birds, sparrows are happy to nest communally. Since modern buildings often provide few niches for these birds to take advantage of, you might like to offer this desirable residence, housing three families in separate apartments in one simple block. Sparrows will also nest in single birdhouses.

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## Problem Wildlife

### Problem wildlife

Wildlife gardeners try to aim for a harmonious balance of plants and animals which fluctuates through the years, but does not allow one species to dominate at the expense of others. There is some confusion about the relationship between wildlife gardening and controlling problem wildlife, and to a certain extent this may be down to your individual interpretation. Problem wildlife will vary from area to area. If you are on the very edge of London you may have hungry visiting deer looking for tender shoots, while if you are in a brand new house in the city centre you could develop a large snail population before any ground beetles, toads or other predators are able to move in.

As soon as you suspect you have a problem with an animal in your garden:

### Establish what it is

- Little black insects on your plants might be newly hatched ladybird larvae, big white grubs among wood chips could be rare stag beetle larvae.
- Ask a gardening friend, or visit a local ecology centre, taking a sample or a good photograph with you.

### Establish whether the animal is actually causing any damage

- Establish which commercial controls are available, and whether they are likely to have any negative effects on other wildlife. Alternatives to chemical control include barriers, ultra-sound deterrents, parasitic nematodes and traps.

### Make your choice about what to do:

You might decide some or all of the following:

- To do nothing.
- To encourage predators like toads and ladybirds.
- To use a commercial barrier.
- To use a trap, or to hand pick the animals off your plants.
- To use a nematode, or other biological control agents.

Pesticides are substances designed to poison living organisms. It is not a good idea to reach for them as soon as you suspect a problem, because you will be spreading poison within your garden. Pesticides include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, nematicides, and rodenticides.

For more information on pesticides and alternative strategies contact the Pesticides Action Network - [www.pan-uk.org](http://www.pan-uk.org) 020 7065 0905

The following organisations offer help with identification of unknown invertebrates. Usually you need to be a member to use this service, and you'll need to provide a good photo or a specimen, and information on where you found it (phone descriptions are always a little hard to work with).

**Natural History Museum** Tel: 020 7942 5000 [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

**Garden Organic** Tel: 024 7630 3517 [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk)

### Foxes

Foxes are very popular animals and an urban success story - nothing beats the early morning sight of fox cubs playing on the lawn. They can be rather untidy animals, and will dig for worms, eat fruit and buds. If you mind this and don't want too much fox activity in your garden:

- Cover any bare soil with chicken wire or mesh pegged down
- Bring indoors anything that you mind foxes playing with
- Use a commercial deterrent like Renardine, or an ultrasonic repellent.
- Block up any gaps under sheds or steps that might be used for an earth between October and January - either making sure that there are no foxes inside, or using a one-way hinge to allow them out but not back in.

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## Problem Wildlife

In a London garden, you may find up to fifteen different slugs and snails. Some only eat rotting plants, others will reach for the freshest, tenderest leaves. A few are rather rare. There are over 200 species of slugs and snails in Britain, many of which are beautiful, rare, and threatened. The great grey slug is twelve inches long, the tiny Desmoulin's whorl snail held up the Newbury Bypass with its rarity, and the Roman snail is huge and was originally brought here for eating. If you live near a woodland, grassland, or river you may see some of these beautiful and non-threatening slugs and snails in your garden.

### Slugs and snails

- Slugs and snails are eaten by hedgehogs, frogs, toads, slow worms, lizards, ground beetles, and various birds. Small slugs are also eaten by harvestmen and centipedes. Encouraging these predators into your garden will reduce the number of slugs and snails.
- If you use slug pellets, or other molluscicides, you face a very high risk of poisoning the helpful animals when they eat a recently poisoned slug or snail. Slug pellets can also poison food plants if laid next to them, and should not be used where children or pets might eat them. They are all round nasty things, so avoid them at all cost!

### What can you do?

Here are some ideas that will help control the problem slugs and snails.

- Create a balanced wildlife garden with enough predators to deal with the problems.
- Try growing plants that slugs and snails do not like. Examples include plants with furry leaves like elephants ears, plants with tough leaves like red valerian, spiny plants, grasses, and herbs with strong scents like rosemary. Some of these may actively discourage slugs and snails.
- Surround vulnerable plants with gravel, broken eggshells, wood ash, pet hair or a commercial irritant barrier, or try copper strips which give a slight electric shock.
- Grow drought-hardy plants in free-draining soil, and water in the morning rather than the evening (slugs prefer moist conditions).
- Protect young seedlings in a greenhouse or coldframe - but make sure compost and pots are completely clean before bringing them into this environment.
- Put a barrier of Vaseline around the lip of large containers, or even around the stem of tall plants like sunflowers.

### Last resorts - ways to remove or kill organically

- Collect ground-living slugs in slightly buried upturned grapefruit halves.
- Leave a few lettuce leaves around your border to tempt slugs and snails in, then remove the leaves.
- Place saucers of beer at ground level to tempt them in and drown them - or purchase a 'slug pub', which does not evaporate so fast.
- Hand-picking is often the most effective method of removing slugs and snails that eat your plants, best carried out two hours after dark. You will need to continue collecting as, believe it or not, young slugs and snails grow faster in the absence of adults.
- Dispose of the slugs and snails by taking them a good distance from your garden. Alternatively feed them to some local chickens, who will consider them a delicacy.

### Squirrels

Although grey squirrels are not native animals, they are fun to watch. They can be deterred from bird feeders by mixing chilli powder or 'squirrel away' in with the food, or you can make a squirrel proof feeder as a challenge. They are often particularly hungry in springtime if they dig up crocuses, try planting colchicums or daffodils instead.

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# Monitoring your Garden

## Monitoring in your garden

By keeping good records of the wildlife in your garden and comparing them year to year you can build up valuable information. It will help you find out how well wildlife is doing, and also tell you if your neighbourhood is improving. It can encourage your friends and neighbours to see it is worthwhile looking after wildlife in their gardens. Also, many professional ecologists are becoming increasingly interested in the distribution of garden wildlife as this can help to measure any decline or increase in species that are good indicators of a healthy environment.

## Monitoring in London

There is a growing call to measure the extent and diversity of London's wildlife and natural open spaces. The Mayor has commissioned London Wildlife Trust to carry out a rolling programme of comprehensive surveys of London boroughs. Other organisations such as the London Natural History Society, the Environment Agency, the Royal Parks and local borough councils are also doing their bit.

## How should you record?

Any way you feel comfortable with, although it is a good idea to be consistent - here are some ideas to choose from:

- Keep a nature notebook, with records, drawings, pressed plants and sketches
- Keep a simple wildlife watching book and fill it in when you remember
- Make a home page for others to visit, add your daily or weekly observations
- Take photos of fixed points in the garden, unusual beasties, and works in progress. Date them and compile a scrapbook
- Keep a desk diary and insist on writing something in every day - even if it is simply about the view from the window
- Use the dated pages to write tasks ahead of time
- Make a map of your garden, photocopy four copies for the year, use one to record your plans for the year, one for your long term plans, one to keep as it is and one to record the work you carry out. At the end of the year redraw the base map and start again for the next year

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# Suppliers and Contacts

## Suppliers in and around London

### Garden Centres

If you are looking for wildlife-friendly products start with your local garden centre. If they do not stock what you need, encourage them to do so in future. Good businesses listen to their customers' needs.

London Wildlife Trust has worked with a number of garden centres who are interested in developing wildlife friendly products and information, these include:

#### Alexandra Palace Garden Centre

Alexandra Palace, N22 4BB Tel: 020 8444 2555

[www.capitalgardens.co.uk](http://www.capitalgardens.co.uk)

#### Capital Gardens - Temple Fortune

Finchley Rd, NW11 7TJ Tel: 020 8455 5363

[www.capitalgardens.co.uk](http://www.capitalgardens.co.uk)

#### Finchley Nurseries - Mill Hill

Buttonhole Lane, NW7 Tel: 020 8959 2124

[www.capitalgardens.co.uk](http://www.capitalgardens.co.uk)

#### Morden Hall Garden Centre

Morden Hall Road, Morden, SM4 5JD Tel: 020 8646 3002

[www.capitalgardens.co.uk](http://www.capitalgardens.co.uk)

#### Phoebes Garden Centre - Lewisham

Penerley Road, SE6 Tel: 020 8698 4365

[www.phoebes.co.uk](http://www.phoebes.co.uk)

#### Squires Garden Centre - Twickenham

Sixth Cross Road, Middlesex TW2 Tel: 020 7977 9241

[www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk](http://www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk)

## Specialist Suppliers - Wildflowers, Trees and Shrubs

#### British Trees And Shrubs, (MO)

125 Hansford Square, Combe Down, Bath, BA2 5LL Tel: 01225 840080

[www.britishtrees.co.uk](http://www.britishtrees.co.uk)

#### British Wildflower Plants (MO)

31 Main Road, Norfolk NR13 4TA Tel: 01603 716615

[www.wildflowers.co.uk](http://www.wildflowers.co.uk)

#### Emorsgate Seeds (MO)

Terrington Court, Popes Lane, Terrington St Clement, Norfolk PE34 4N.

Tel: 01553 829028 [www.wildseed.co.uk](http://www.wildseed.co.uk)

#### John Chambers Seeds (MO)

15 Westleigh Road, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants NN15 5AJ

Tel: 01933 652562 [www.johnchamberswildflowerseeds.co.uk](http://www.johnchamberswildflowerseeds.co.uk)

#### Landlife (MO)

National Wildflower Centre, Court Hey Park, Liverpool. L16 3NA

Tel: 0151 737 1819 [www.wildflower.co.uk](http://www.wildflower.co.uk)

#### Mike Mullis Wildflower Plants

27 Stream Garm Cottages, Netherfield Road, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0HH

Tel: 079326 83245

#### Natural Surroundings - Centre for Wildlife Gardening

Bayfield Estate, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 7JN Tel: 01263 711091

[www.naturalsurroundings.org](http://www.naturalsurroundings.org)

#### Suffolk Herbs (MO)

Monks Farm, Coggeshall Road, Klevedon, Essex CO5 9PG Tel: 01376 572456

[www.suffolkherbs.com](http://www.suffolkherbs.com)

(MO) = Mail order company

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# Suppliers and Contacts

## Other products by mail or phone

### **CJ Wildbird Food Ltd**

The Rea, Upton Magna, Shrewsbury, SY4 4UB Tel: 0800 731 2820  
www.birdfood.co.uk

### **Haiths - The Bird Seed Company**

Park Street, Cleethorpes, NE Lincolnshire DN35 7NF  
Tel: 0800 298 7054 www.haiths.com

### **The Organic Gardening Catalogue**

Riverdene Business Park, Molesey Road, Horsham, Surrey, KT12 4RG,  
Tel: 08451 301304 www.organiccatalog.com

### **Willow Bank**

Suite 6 Melbury House, 7 Great Oak ST, Llanidloes SY18 6BU  
Tel: 01594 861782

## Contacts for more information

London Wildlife Trust offers various information, talks and training courses to help you to garden for wildlife, call us for more information.

The following organisations are some that have a specialist interest in wildlife gardens. Many offer leaflets on wildlife gardening:

### **British Trust for Ornithology**

The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU Tel: 01842 750050  
www.bto.org

### **Butterfly Conservation**

Manor Yard, East Lulworth, near Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP  
Tel: 01929 400209 www.butterfly-conservation.org

### **Natural England**

Northminster House, Peterborough PR1 1UA Tel: 01733 455000  
www.naturalengland.org.uk

### **Froglife**

Mansion House, 27/28 Market Place, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AY  
Tel: 01733 558960 www.froglife.org

Please remember if you are hoping to have information posted to you then a self addressed envelope is generally helpful to charities.

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Monday - Friday  
9.00am - 5.00pm



82733

|                 |                                                                  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English         | <b>For free translation phone</b>                                |
| Albanian        | <b>Për një përkthim falas telefononi.</b>                        |
| Arabic          | للترجمة المجانية الرجاء الاتصال هاتفياً.                         |
| Bengali/Sylheti | বিনামূলিতে অনুবাদের জন্য টেলিফোন করুন                            |
| Chinese         | 欲索取免費譯本，請致電。                                                     |
| French          | <b>Pour une traduction gratuite, téléphonez</b>                  |
| Greek           | Για δωρεάν μετάφραση, τηλεφωνήστε.                               |
| Gujarati        | મફત ભાષાંતર માટે ફોન કરો.                                        |
| Kurdish         | بۆ وەرگیران (تهرجومه کردن) به خوڤایی، ته له فۆن بکه.             |
| Lithuanian      | <b>Del nemokamo vertimo skambinkinte</b>                         |
| Malayalam       | സൗജന്യമായ തർജ്ജിമയ്ക്കായി ബന്ധപ്പെടുക                            |
| Polish          | <b>Po bezplatne tłumaczenia prosimy dzwonic</b>                  |
| Portuguese      | <b>Para uma tradução grátis, telefone.</b>                       |
| Punjabi         | ਮੁਫਤ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਲਈ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ                                           |
| Hindi           | मुफ्त अनुवाद के लिए फोन कीजिए                                    |
| Russian         | Перевод – бесплатно. Звоните.                                    |
| Serbo-Croat     | <b>Za besplatne prevode pozovite</b>                             |
| Somali          | <b>Turjubaan lacag la'aan ah ka soo wac telefoonka.</b>          |
| Spanish         | <b>Para obtener una traducción telefónica gratuita llame al:</b> |
| Tamil           | இலவச மொழிபெயர்ப்புக்கு தொலைபேசி செய்யவும்.                       |
| Turkish         | Ücretsiz çeviri için telefon edin.                               |
| Urdu            | مفت ترجمے کے لئے ٹیلیفون کیجئے۔                                  |
| Vietnamese      | Điện thoại để được thông dịch miễn phí.                          |

Also available in audio, large print or braille, phone

**020 8430 6291**

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For more information on wildlife in Tower Hamlets, please contact the Biodiversity Officer on 020 7364 7478 or e-mail [john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:john.archer@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or see the Tower Habitats website [www.towerhabitats.org](http://www.towerhabitats.org)