

Woodgate

PEASE POTTAGE

Gardening for Wildlife



THAKEHAM

Congratulations on your new home!

Your new garden is a blank canvas, providing the perfect opportunity to create space for nature as you develop your garden. With many of our natural landscapes in poor condition for wildlife and once-common species now declining across the UK, helping nature at home through wildlife gardening and sustainable living is an important way to help the natural world recover.

Our gardens represent more land than all the nature reserves in the country put together, so if we make them havens for struggling species, we can create stepping stones across the landscape for wildlife to breed, feed, move and thrive.

More often than not, it is what you don't do in the garden that benefits wildlife. Simple actions like leaving the lawn longer between mows, allowing a patch of weeds to flourish, leaving a pile of leaves in a corner and stopping the chemical treatment of pests will both save you time and benefit many species.

This guide contains all the information required to get you started in your journey to creating a wildlife friendly garden. You'll notice some helpful hints and tips from Eddie and Ellie, two eager young ecologists, and the basis of a unique Thakeham project run in conjunction with local schools and Surrey Wildlife Trust to help reconnect children with the natural world around them.

If we all work together to create towns and villages that are welcoming to wildlife, we can reach the Wildlife Trusts' ambitious target of 30% of the country managed and protected for wildlife by 2030, and secure the future of the natural world for generations to come.

You can find many more ways to help wildlife at home at:
www.surreywildlifetrust.org/actions

This Gardening for Wildlife guide has been created with support from Surrey Wildlife Trust, to build on Thakeham's commitment to nature recovery. We want to see a world where seeing a hedgehog is an everyday experience, and we hope that this guide inspires you to move one step closer to that vision.

Find out more about Thakeham's sustainability ambitions at www.thakeham.com/sustainability

Using the Guide

We have created four corners, designed and ready to plant, each with a specific benefit to wildlife.

Within each corner, you'll find help and advice on what's important, as well as a layout sketch. At the end of this guide you'll find a plant list for each garden corner ready for you to take to your local garden centre. We'll leave it to you whether you include all four corners in your garden, or match them to suit your space and style; it's fun to get creative with the space!

Forager Corner

If you're hoping to see prickly little foragers and the chirping of birds, then this is the garden for you. Find out how to create the perfect environment for your favourite creatures.

Kitchen Corner

Do you like to keep things fresh in the kitchen? If so, then find out how to grow your own. We promise, nothing tastes better than a freshly picked dinner.

Wetland Corner

Bring a sense of calm and serenity to your garden with the sound of trickling water. Not only will you feel relaxed, but you'll also be creating a vital habitat that could bring dragonflies into your garden.

Pollinator Corner

Bees need our help! Keep things wild and find out what you can do to hear the gentle hum of pollinators in your garden, all year round.



Forager Corner



Many of our native creatures are in trouble, from the birds that visit our gardens to hedgehogs and the unseen insects working as decomposers and pest controllers.

You can help by creating spaces for birds, bees, hedgehogs and other creatures to feed, nest and roam.

Hedgehog Houses

Hedgehogs need homes just like humans, so making one for them is a great way to encourage them into your garden. Hedgehogs are becoming increasingly reliant on urban and suburban gardens. Urban populations of hedgehogs have increased by up to a third, while rural populations have halved. This decline is likely caused by habitat loss, agricultural intensification and climate change.

You can purchase a readymade hedgehog hotel or make your own using these online instructions www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog-home

Feeding Birds

Putting up a feeder or table is one of the easiest ways to attract birds to your garden, especially during the winter months when food is harder to come by. Understanding food types and feeding habits will help you attract a variety of different species. It can take as long as a few months for birds to visit a new feeder so don't despair. See page 14 for advice on different types of feeder.

Bug Hotel

An average garden has more than 2,000 different species of insect! By providing a bug hotel home, you can greatly increase the number of 'beneficial' insects to control pest species and provide food for other animals.

Learn how to make a bug hotel online www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bug-mansion

Your garden may already have a hedgehog hole in a fence or gate. If not, create one that is 13cm in diameter to allow hedgehogs to roam in search of food and nesting spots.

Remember, clear out the hedgehog house once a year (late March to early April) to prevent the build up of pests. Do not clean it out if a hedgehog is in residence though!

Juniper berries are a good food source for nesting birds, caterpillars and moths. Junipers create great structure in a border.



Wild Primrose is good at the front of any bed flowering from winter to spring and loved by butterflies.

Borage is a small plant that is good at filling gaps in gardens, supporting bees, butterflies and hoverflies. It can also be good in a salad.

Solitary Bees

Unlike the honey bee, most of our bees are solitary. Some species will nest in holes in the ground, while others will look for a hole or hollow stems in which to lay their eggs.

You can attract solitary bees to live in your garden by purchasing a purpose-built bee home or make your own by cutting bamboo and packing it in a simple wooden box. Hang your hotel on a sunny wall, sheltered from the rain.



Eddie & Ellie have learnt...

Bee Hotels provide a breeding place for solitary bees like Mason bees, Leafcutter bees and Yellow-faced bees. These species nest in cavities and look for plants that are good for pollinators. They are not aggressive, so Bee Hotels are fine around children and pets.

Forager Corner in our Show Home Garden

A carefully planned Forager Garden can provide year round food for a variety of wildlife who'll get their nutrition from a range of sources. If you're hoping to see hedgehogs and hear the chirping of birds, then you'll need plants that provide food for creatures with a variety of berries, fruits, and seeds.



To provide you with some inspiration, we created a forager corner in one of our show home gardens.

Eddie & Ellie have learnt...



Hedgehog Homes provide shelter and a warm place while they hibernate, as well as a safe place to nest in the spring. They are best placed next to a Hedgehog Highway passing through your fence to help them move around. When hedgehogs hibernate depends on weather conditions, but it can be between November until late March.

Feeding Hedgehogs

When leaving food out for hedgehogs, never feed them milk or bread. Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant and milk can cause diarrhoea, while bread isn't very nutritious. It's also the case with mealworms - again they carry no nutritional value for hedgehogs and in the longer term can cause calcium deficiencies.

The best thing (if you don't have any beetles or worms behind your tins of baked beans) is dog or cat food. Hedgehogs are not too fussy so you can feed them wet or dry food.

To wash down their meal, a hedgehog likes nothing better than a bowl of water. In the warm spring and summer months it is more important to leave out water for your visiting hogs, as they get thirsty in hot weather just like us humans.



Kitchen Corner

Wildlife friendly herbs include Rosemary, Thyme, Common Mint, Wild Marjoram, Caraway and Fennel.

Planting a herb garden will not only allow you access to fresh seasoning but will also attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. Herb gardens can be planted in raised beds, borders, containers, or window boxes.

Lavender is often considered a herb and will attract pollinators to pollinate crops as well as deter aphids.

A kitchen corner provides for both you and wildlife and is a beautiful addition to any garden. By using companion planting in your kitchen corner you can control pests naturally, produce a crop and help pollinators and other

Companion Planting

Companion planting is all about creating areas of plants that provide benefits to each other. In practice, this means that plants that complement each other are placed together, and those that don't, are kept apart. By planting 'companion' plants among other plants it can help them to grow by either attracting beneficial insects, repelling pests, or by acting as a sacrificial plant to lure pests away.

Learn more about companion planting at www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-do-companion-planting

Pest or Guest?

Carrot flowers are a big hit with many insects, especially aphid-eating hoverflies, so leave a few to flower. A nearby patch of weeds can be a bonus. It is unlikely to harbour pests, but may well host many of their predators.

Aromatic herbs are really popular with insects, so include things like borage, sage and mint in your veg plot. Sink them into the ground in their pots to stop them spreading.

Hoverflies are natural predators of other garden insects such as aphids, mites, and mealy bugs. Their larvae are particularly voracious feeders. Plants that attract hoverflies include: Poached Egg Plant, Michaelmas Daisy, Teasel and Scabious.



Pot Marigold is a great companion plant for tomatoes as it repels Whitefly.

Garlic Chive deters the Carrot fly.

Mint scent will repel insects from onions.

Wildlife Friendly Vegetable Patch

Growing vegetables is a great - and tasty - way of attracting wildlife to your garden. Learn about companion planting and how wildlife and growing vegetables can go hand in hand.

Composting

There are many benefits to composting your garden and kitchen waste. You're reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and providing a habitat for a range of minibeasts, which are also a delicious food source for hedgehogs and other animals. Your home made compost can also be used to improve the existing soil in your garden, saving you money on shop-bought alternatives.

How to get started

All you need for a successful compost heap is waste, air and water! A simple heap covered with old carpet or plastic is just as effective as a 'bin', although a container will look tidier and can be easier to manage. Try to pick a shady spot to keep things moist, and water any dry ingredients you may be adding.

Do not compost

Cooked food, coal and coke ash, meat and fish, bones, cat litter, dog poo, disposable nappies or human poo, glossy paper, weeds, woody stems, or diseased plants.

Buried Composters

Burying your compost bin directly into the soil can provide a discreet location for all of your composting needs. It puts the nutrients straight back into the soil without the smell and pest issues of some composters. Once full the compost can be harvested and spread on the beds as a mulch.



Can the Chemicals



Slug traps

Buy or make your own slug traps using yoghurt pots buried in the soil around your plants and fill with cheap beer or milk.

Dig over your soil

Dig over your borders or vegetable plot in winter when the ground is cold and any slugs and their eggs will be exposed and killed or eaten by predators.

Nematodes

Try slug nematodes - a slug parasite that only targets slugs and is harmless to everything else.

Aphids

Spray infested plants with a mild solution of washing up liquid or strong jet of water. Plant nasturtiums in your vegetable plot to attract them away from your produce. A natural product called neem oil is also available online and will deter aphids and many other pests.

Red spider mite

In a greenhouse use the biological control, Phytoseiulus Persimilis, a predatory mite.



Pollinator Corner



With wild habitats at risk, bees and other pollinators need us to provide a food source in our gardens, balconies, allotments and other outdoor spaces.

You can create a Pollinator Garden by choosing plants that provide a real mix of colour, scent, textures and even sounds. Not only will this be a fascinating and invigorating place for you to spend time, but you'll be providing an attractive environment for wildlife.

Grow a wild patch

It doesn't matter what size your space is, there's always room for wildflowers! Set aside an area of lawn, part of a border, or even a large container and watch the bees and butterflies buzz in. Many garden centres now sell wildflower mixes suitable for various soil types and situations.

Learn more about growing a wild patch at www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-grow-wild-patch



Plant large shrubs or trees as structure such as Crab Apples or Wild Cherry Trees.

Summer flowering climbers such as Honeysuckle can soften fences whilst providing for pollinators. Ivy will do the same job whilst providing for pollinators in autumn.



Winter flowering Crocuses, Snowdrops, Heathers and Mahonia will provide for those few pollinators still active.

Spring Bulbs near the front of the border will provide for early pollinators. Such as, Snowdrops, Wild Daffodils and Grape Hyacinths.

A few larger flowering shrubs will create good height and depth structure to borders. Such as Pyracantha, Barberry and Skimmia Japonica.

Tall summer flowering plants like Foxgloves and Sunflowers provide interesting structure in the middle and towards the back of beds.

Make sure your compost is peat-free to help reduce pressure on precious peat habitats. This also helps keep carbon trapped in the ground in our fight against climate change.

Caring for Birds



Birds are probably the most noticed visitors to our gardens, but some species such as House Sparrows and House Martins are becoming increasingly scarce due to habitat loss and disease. However, there are many simple actions you can take at home to help birds flourish on your patch.

Hanging feeders

These types of feeder will attract a wide mix of birds including most species of Tit, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, and House and Tree Sparrows. Fill them with a general seed mix that includes energy rich sunflower seed or suet if you want to attract Robins.

Feeding garden birds

Putting up a feeder or table is one of the easiest ways to attract birds to your garden, especially during the winter months when food is harder to come by. Understanding food types and feeding habits will help you attract a variety of different species. It can take as long as a few months for birds to visit a new feeder.

Niger seed feeders

These specialist feeders are designed to hold the tiny Niger seed and will attract Goldfinches and Siskins.

Peanut feeders

Peanuts are an ideal winter food and should only be provided in mesh feeder as whole peanuts pose a choking hazard. Suet pellets can also be used in a mesh feeder, either on their own or mixed with peanuts.

Fat ball feeder

Fat balls are another great winter food source and can be bought or made from suet or lard mixed with seed. These can be hung in special fat ball feeders, or they can be smeared into coconut shells or hung on string.



What not to feed

Don't put out salty food or dry bread as this can be harmful for birds. Also, avoid cooking fats as these stick to bird's feathers and harbour bacteria. To avoid food poisoning, make sure to only provide live mealworm unless they are dried, and don't put out whole peanuts as these are a choking hazard.

Nest boxes

Provide a home for birds in your garden by installing a nest box. Different types of box will attract different species. Whilst most birds prefer a closed box with a small entrance hole, some - like robins, wrens, blackbirds and song thrushes - use an open fronted box. Species like swifts, swallows and house martins require a specialist box as they nest under eaves and gable ends of buildings.

Positioning your nest box

Place your box in a sheltered position on a tree or wall, facing north east to south east to avoid prevailing wet weather and the heat of the midday sun.

The height of the box will be determined by the bird species you are trying to attract, but for most species between 2 and 4 meters is best. Also, make sure the location is not easily accessible to predators.

*Eddie & Ellie
have learnt...*

As well as providing a home for birds to bring up their families in spring and summer, a **bird box (also known as a nest box)** will also provide **shelter in the winter.**



Wetland Corner

A garden pond or bog garden can provide a home for many species. It is one of the best features for attracting frogs, toads, newts, dragon and damselflies, as well as creatures that need a fresh drinking source such as hedgehogs and birds. The sight and sound of water can also create a calm and relaxing atmosphere.

Bog Garden

If you have a shady damp patch that you struggle to utilise, why not create a bog garden? A boggy area may be a better option than a pond for families with young children. Various species of Iris, Primula, Ferns and grasses will be perfect for this patch.

Like a pond, it should attract frogs, toads, dragonflies and it will create an area where moisture-loving plants thrive. These plants are different to those suited to the standing water of a pond, so will attract a host of different wildlife.

Find full instructions and a list of suggested plants
www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-bog-garden

Water Features

Including a water feature, bird bath or even just a shallow dish of water on the ground will also provide a drinking source for garden visitors such as hedgehogs and foxes.

Butterflies get valuable minerals and salts from slightly muddy water and birds use water to bathe and remove parasites.

Find a fairly sunny position for your pond to ensure that there is enough light for the plants to grow. It's best to place your pond away from trees and large shrubs. If you don't have much space, a small pond or container pond can still be alive with wildlife! Including oxygenating plants will keep the water healthy and means you don't need a pump.

*You can find instructions on how to create a wildlife pond
www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond*



Leave a stack of logs and stones near your pond for frogs and newts.

Plant floating leaved plants for dragonflies and damselflies to lay their eggs.

Leave a patch of long grass or vegetation nearby to your pond or bog garden to provide shelter.

Make sure your pond has a small ramp to make sure animals don't get stuck when they're trying to get out.

Remember:

When temperatures drop, water freezes, making it difficult for wildlife to find fresh water to drink. Break the water on bird baths daily or replace with tepid water.



How to Make a Container Pond

Even the smallest of ponds can be great for wildlife and create sensory variation in your garden. Something as small as a disused sink, sunken washing-up bowl, or even a large plant pot, can be turned into a mini wildlife pond.



What you will need:

- a watertight container
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles
- pond plants
- spade



- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will want light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.
- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond. Use rainwater as tap water contains chemicals.
- 5 Start planting! You only need one or two plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.



Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out.

One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. Flowering rush.

One submerged plant e.g. Hornwort or Spiked Milfoil.



Eddie & Ellie have learnt...

A small, sunken shallow pool or pond can create a wetland habitat for an interesting range of wildlife, including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts, as well as a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats. Make sure it has sloping sides so creatures can get safely in and out.













Plant lists

The next four pages provide you with ideas of plants that would do well in each of the four garden corners. Consider taking the lists to your local garden centre to help you choose.

Remember when selecting your plants to think about the soil you have, how much sun your corner gets and the space you have available for each plant.

A plant grown in the wrong conditions will be stressed and more likely to succumb to pests or disease. Finding out what type of soil you have (simple test kits are available from most garden centres) and how well it holds moisture will help you work out what is likely to grow best.

Forager Corner Plant List

			
<i>Borage</i>	<i>Sedum</i>	<i>Juniper</i>	<i>Wild Primrose</i>
			
<i>Verbena</i>	<i>Blackberry</i>	<i>Wild Strawberry</i>	<i>Hellebore Christmas Rose</i>
			
<i>Gerbera</i>	<i>Common Hawthorn</i>	<i>Foxglove</i>	<i>Guelder Rose</i>
		<p><i>Others...</i></p> <p><i>Ivy</i> <i>Salvia</i></p> <p><i>Hardy Geranium</i> <i>Coneflower</i></p>	
<i>Lobelia</i>	<i>Honeysuckle</i>		

Kitchen Corner Plant List



			
<i>Rosemary</i>	<i>Thyme</i>	<i>Common Sage</i>	<i>Mint</i>
			
<i>Lettuce</i>	<i>Onions</i>	<i>Fennel</i>	<i>Tomatoes</i>
			
<i>Lavender</i>	<i>Garlic Chives</i>	<i>Poached Egg Plant</i>	<i>Runner Beans</i>
		<p><i>Others...</i></p> <p><i>Caraway</i> <i>Michaelmas Daisy</i></p> <p><i>Pot Marigold</i> <i>Teasel</i></p> <p><i>Scabious</i></p>	
<i>Carrots</i>	<i>Wild Marjoram</i>		

Pollinator Corner Plant List



			
Honeysuckle	Ivy	Winter Flowering Mahonia	Snowdrops
			
Pyracantha	Sunflowers	Skimmia Japonica	Grape Hyacinths
			
Wild Cherry	Hollyhock	Clematis	Evening Primrose
		<p><i>Others...</i></p> <div><div>Winter Flowering Heather</div><div>Wild Daffodils</div><div>Barberry</div></div> <div><div>Foxgloves</div><div>Crab Apple</div><div>Native Primrose</div></div>	
Hebes	Winter Flowering Crocuses		

Wetland Corner Plant List

			
Water Crowfoot	Water Mint	Lesser Bulrush	Water Plantain
			
Spearwort	Common Reed	Purple-loosestrife	Bogbean
			
Marsh Marigold	Arrowhead	Creeping Jenny	Flowering Rush
		<p><i>Others...</i></p> <div><div>Water Starwort</div><div>Rigid Hornwort</div><div>Water Milfoil</div></div> <div><div>Curled Pondweed</div><div>Greater Pond-sedge</div><div>Gold-edged Prairie Cord Grass</div></div>	
Japanese Water Iris	Water Forget Me Not		



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