



Great Garden Give Conservation Tips

20 ways to create a wildlife paradise in your garden

Whether you measure your garden in square feet or in acres, the same basic rules for creating a haven for wildlife apply. By focusing on food, water and nesting sites, you will swiftly and easily turn your garden into a nature sanctuary.

- 1 Ensure there is water in your garden**
A pond is a blessing for wildlife in your garden, but if you are short of space an upturned dustbin lid makes a great, shallow mini pond
- 2 Do not stock a pond with fish if you want to attract newts, frogs and toads**
Most species of fish eat amphibian eggs and you will miss the pleasure of watching tadpoles swimming about
- 3 Create a shallow slope at one side of your pond**
Wildlife needs to be able to get in and out of water easily and, in summer when the water level drops, an exposed area of mud will attract wagtails
- 4 Feed the birds**
Birds feed on the seeds of meadow flowers, but if you prefer a mown lawn, add a birdbath and bird feeders. Remember to keep feeders clean and topped up
- 5 Be bee friendly**
Plant herbs to attract bees. If you visit any herb garden you will see and hear it positively buzzing. Borage, for example, is a great herb for feeding honey bees
- 6 Provide nesting sites**
Shrubs, bushes and climbing plants make perfect nest sites for birds [add a few words for length]
- 7 Grow fruit trees**
Fruit trees produce food for you and your family and for wildlife, so even a dwarf apple tree in a small garden is a big plus for wildlife
- 8 Create shelter**
Build piles of logs or rocks so that insects and other small mammals will build their nests in them
- 9 Make compost**
Compost provides nutrients for your garden and a rich habitat for insects and other wildlife. It is also a create way to recycle garden waste
- 10 Attract butterflies and moths to your garden during the day**
Scented and nectar-bearing plants, such as honeysuckle and buddleia will attract invertebrates during the day.
- 11 Entice flying insects to your garden at night**
For hawk moths and nocturnal insects it is important to have night-scented flowers such as tobacco plants and evening primrose
- 12 Go gently when gardening with sharp tools**
Hedgehogs make their nests in compost heaps and leaf piles and frogs hide out in clumps of dank weeds. Take care not to injure them when forking over your plot
- 13 Never light a bonfire without checking the pile first**
Small mammals use bonfire piles for shelter and as a place for hibernation. Many hedgehogs are victims of bonfires during the winter



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Don't let birds fly into glass windows and doors

Birds are killed by attempting to fly through glass windows so if you have picture windows put plants or vases on the windowsill, or use silhouette bird stickers

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Think before 'tidying up'

Outbuildings and dilapidated sheds provide nesting sites for birds such as swallows and barn owls, as well as bats. In autumn some butterflies hibernate in the cracks and crevices of walls

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Switch off unnecessary lights

Light pollution causes birds to become active in the middle of the night and may disorientate migrant birds.

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Leave on a low light

In some circumstances low lighting at night can benefit wildlife – bats and toads frequently find a ready supply of food fluttering around a light

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Make friends with the wildlife in your garden

A common toad is a gardener's friend, feeding almost exclusively on slow-moving invertebrates, such as slugs

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Put a bell (or two) on your cat

Domestic cats prey on birds and small mammals so a bell on their collar will alert wildlife to the danger of predatory cats

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Love your weeds

Leave a corner of your garden wild. A clump of nettles will sustain a wealth of insects including Lady-birds, Gold Finches feast on dandelion seeds and ivy is great for birds

These Conservation Tips have been produced as part of Great Garden Give, run by World Land Trust (WLT) from 27 June to 14 July 2014. During the fortnight, you can help us save the world's most threatened habitats by 'donating your garden' as part of a fun and eco-friendly fundraising campaign.

All you have to do is measure or estimate the size of a garden you love (your own, or someone else's), it can be a courtyard, a formal garden or a wildflower meadow. Enter the amount into the Great Garden Give calculator and then make the donation suggested. At 2.5p per square metre, a donation of £2.50 will match the size of an average UK garden of 100 square metres - so it won't break the bank!

WLT will use every donation, large or small, to purchase and protect threatened savanna grassland in Bolivia or forest in urgent need of protection in Ecuador, Colombia or Mexico.

For more information and to try out our Great Garden Give calculator, go to www.worldlandtrust.org/great-garden-give



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