



Gardening for Wildlife and Sustainability

All gardens, big or small, can have a positive impact on wildlife and biodiversity in our urban spaces. If you would like to help wildlife and encourage birds, bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects into your garden you can try the following things:

- Grow plants that provide pollen and nectar to attract bees and other pollinating insects
- Plant a variety of plants with different flowering times and with different flower shapes to attract a variety of pollinators throughout the year
- Use plants which produce berries and seed pods that birds can eat
- Plant night scented plants for attracting moths
- Add water to your garden to attract birds and insects
- Create habitats for wildlife such as log piles and bug/bee hotels

It is also possible to garden sustainably so that we help to protect the planet for future generations. Our top tips for sustainable gardening are:

- Choose drought tolerant plants to conserve water
- Choose peat free composts to protect our peat bogs
- Plant perennial plants or annuals that self-seed easily instead of bedding plants which are replaced every year
- Avoid harmful pesticides and tolerate some damage to plants from 'pests'. All creatures, big and small, are a valuable part of the ecosystem
- Reuse pots and repurpose household items for use in the garden
- Avoid garden items made of plastic which takes a long time to biodegrade
- Compost your kitchen and garden waste
- Collect rainwater for use around the garden

