



Wildlife Gardening

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Make your garden buzz with bees and bugs.

Our insects are losing their habitat to urbanisation and agriculture. Britain is a nation of gardeners, and between us we have an incredible 16 million gardens covering two million acres.

It doesn't take a lot to make your little plot of green a vital refuge for our invertebrate friends. Think of your space as a pit stop for insects.

Pockets of the right plant life in our towns, cities and villages can

be used by insects as they navigate our built environments. The good news is that gardening for insects is one of those activities in which less really is more.

The best thing you can do is not very much.

Here's an outline of the things you can do to help. All can be done without any special skills and none of them will take much time or effort.



Saving the small things that run the planet



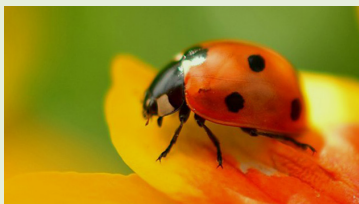
Create a dead wood habitat

Did you know that nearly 2,000 sorts of invertebrates require dead wood and use it in many different ways? Pile up some logs in sun or shade and see which differing insects arrive.



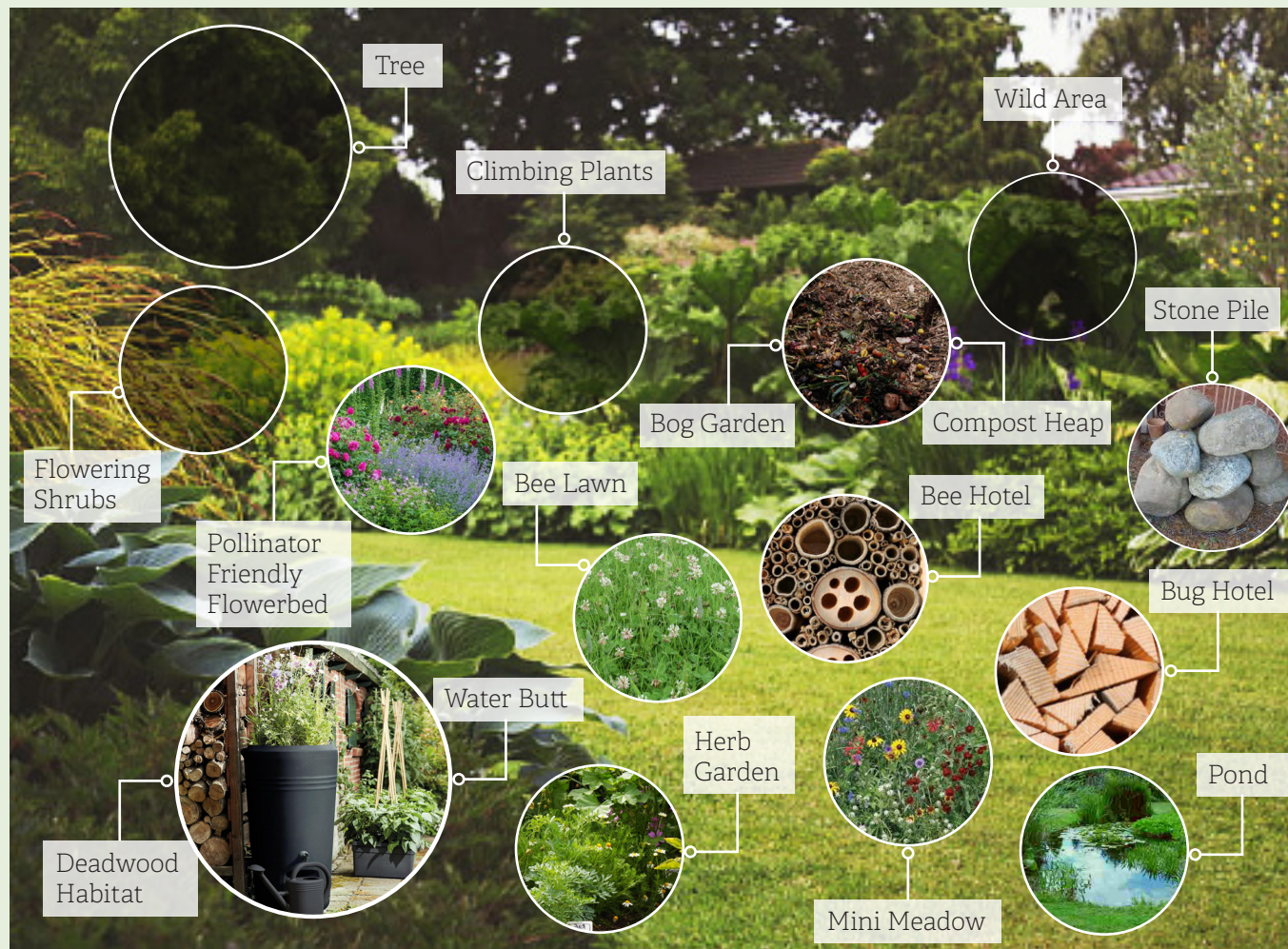
Make a mini meadow

Simply sprinkle a packet of wildflower seeds in autumn or early spring. Scatter on bare earth (weed free/unimproved soil) in full sun and water lightly.



Planting for bugs

You can plant with insects in mind. Choose the right flowers for pollinators, like flowers that grow here naturally. Provide a mix of flower types and flowers that bloom at different times of year or herb garden.



Bug-friendly pond

Many invertebrates rely on these freshwater habitats as a permanent home or a breeding place. They provide a watering hole for a range of wildlife to drink and bathe. Ponds are increasingly important for wildlife and don't take up much space.



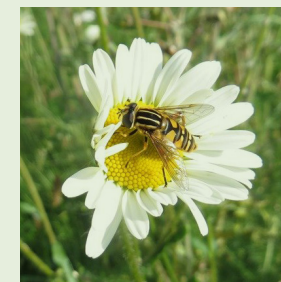
Build a bee hotel

Simple to make creating nest cavities using: Cut Bamboo canes, Drilled logs, Paper straws, Dead hollow reed stems. Stacked inside a frame or fastened in a bundle. Sited in full sun, fastened a metre off the ground, kept clear of plant and obstructions.



Build a bug hotel

An easy way is to use a framework of reclaimed pallets. 1) Choose a spot that combines sun and shade. 2) Prepare an even ground. 3) Build it up by stacking pallets alternately. 4) Fill it up with materials. 5) Add a waterproof roof with tiles, felt or turf.



Grow a little wilder

The simplest thing to do... is nothing. Relaxing your gardening a little to let nature take its course can go a long way towards providing habitats for insects - Leave your lawn a little longer and leave flowers that grow there. Let ivy do its thing and leave dead leaves in piles.

PEST CONTROL

Things to consider if you have insect invaders:

- If they're not causing any harm, leave them alone. It will save a lot of invertebrate lives as well as time and money!
- Let nature take care of pest problems. A predator species will do the work for you.
 - Aphid-munching ladybirds and lacewings,
 - Slug-hunting predators,
 - Worker wasps are great hunters of caterpillars,
 - Solitary wasps are predators of various insects.
- Strongly-scented plants like Marigolds, Sage or Lavender near vegetables/flowers can deter insects. Smelly nasturtiums also keeps butterflies away from cabbages.
- Create a polythene barrier around carrots to keep out the carrot fly and slugs.
- A teaspoon of washing up liquid in a gallon of water is enough to wash off insects.

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Reduce your impact on the environment and wildlife:

- Cut down on your water use. – Water plants in evening when less moisture will evaporate,
 - Get a water butt to harness rainwater for your garden,
 - Use 'grey water' from washing up to water potted plants,
 - Avoid using sprinklers.
- Choose native plants. Non-native or invasive species out-compete bug-friendly plants.
- Start a compost heap. Garden and kitchen waste provides a home for bugs, which will reward you with rich compost.
- Recycle pots, bricks, stones, wood, chippings and clippings, turn them into bug habitats.
- Ditch the peat. Peat is harvested unsustainably and deprives insects of habitat.
- Leave the limestone; which is a habitat for invertebrates.



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CL Wildlife are leading suppliers of wildlife care products to help you create a wildlife haven and attract beneficial insects to your garden.

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