



**NORTH
EAST**
SCOTLAND
Biodiversity
Partnership

Wild About Your Garden

Encourage wildlife and watch
your garden come alive!

Wildlife Gardening

With over 15 million gardens in Britain, covering an area larger than all our national nature reserves put together, what we choose to do with our gardens does matter for nature.

No matter the size of the area you are looking after or how much gardening experience you have, we can all do more to help local wildlife.

The first step to helping our wildlife is to change our mindset and think of our gardens as part of a much wider picture. Yes, they are man-made areas, but they have the potential to be much more than just a place that we can enjoy on a sunny day.

We hope our Wildlife Gardening booklet helps you think outside the box and be creative with your garden.



Every green space has the capacity to be a wildlife garden. Relax and go with the flow of nature and the seasons, and enjoy your little piece of planet earth.

Did you know?

The UK has lost over 97% of its wildflower meadows since the 1930s. So every wildflower we can grow provides a boost to our pollinating insects

Buff-tailed bumblebees can travel almost 800 metres in search of pollen and nectar. Let's make it easier for them!

Around $\frac{3}{4}$ of all wild bee species nest in soil. Most of these are solitary bees, such as the early mining bee.

The closely cut lawn was created in the 17th century, and was a symbol of aristocracy or the upper classes.

Many moth and butterfly caterpillars feed on grasses, such as the grass-veneer moth or meadow brown butterfly.

A teaspoon of healthy soil contains more bacteria than there are people on the earth.

First 5 things you need to start your wildlife garden.



Check what wildlife you already have and keep it - let things grow!



Keep an open mind and be willing to think outside the box.



Install a pond - everything needs water and no matter the size, it will help.



Plan for year round interest (for you and nature).



Start at a scale you can maintain and develop over time.

An Ecosystem Approach to Gardening

An ecosystem is a community of living organisms interacting with their physical environment, ranging from a nature reserve to a garden.



5 steps for pollinators



Plant core pollinator species of local provenance wildflowers

- Daisy Family Species
- Umbellifers Family Species
- Scabious Family Species



Encourage local sourced wildflower species that a wide variety of insects feed upon. For example

- Bird's-Foot Trefoil
- Common Hogweed
- Ragwort
- Dandelion
- Thistles



Mow more mosaics with vegetation of different heights.

- Cut less often
- Leave some wild areas
- Leave bare soil patches in sunny spots for solitary bees



Many species require water close at hand, ponds no matter the size will help.



If planting or sowing, do so in groups in order to increase foraging and pollination efficiency.

This helps both the insect and the plant.



Pollinator-friendly plants native to North East Scotland

The following plants are the top plants for adult pollinators. There are many other species which may be important for other stages of their lifecycle.

Plant Type	 spring	 SUMMER	 Autumn
Ornamental plants and herbs	Coltsfoot, Wood Avens	Cat's-Ear, Tansy, Field Scabious, Wood Avens,	Cat's-Ear, Tansy, Field Scabious, Wood Avens,
Flowering trees and shrubs	Birch, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Rowan, Goat Willow	Elder, Bramble, Wild Raspberry, Holly, Dog Rose	Dogwood, Dog Rose
Wildflowers in long grass	Cow Parsley, Dandelion, Ox-eye Daisy, Red Clover,	Autumn Hawkbit, Common Knapweed, Cow Parsley, Dandelion, Devil's-bit Scabious, Hogweed, Melancholy Thistle, Ox-eye Daisy, Red Clover, Teasel, Wild Carrot, Yarrow	Autumn Hawkbit, Dandelion, Devil's-bit Scabious, Hogweed, Red Clover
Flowering plants for damp areas and wetlands	Bugle, Cuckoo Flower, Water Avens	Angelica, Bugle, Gypsywort, Meadowsweet, Sneezewort, Water Avens, Water Mint	Bugle
Flowering plants suitable for containers	Bird Cherry, Hairy St. John's Wort, Herb Robert, Thrift, Water Avens, Red Campion,	Herb Robert, Holly, Dog Rose Marjoram, Meadow Cranesbill, Thrift, Water Avens, Red Campion	Herb Robert, Red Campion

How can insects help your garden?

Pollination

The majority of plants depend on insects for pollination, including many vital food plants.

Pest control

Many insects are excellent hunters and keep pest insects like aphids in check.

Food sources

Insects are an important food source for many birds and mammals.

Decomposition

Insects and other minibeasts play an important role in decomposition.



Cockfoot moth on buttercup a © Helen Rowe



Oedemeridae lurida © Abbie Ferrar

Adding animal homes to your garden



Bird Boxes - don't just think about the sparrow's and tits. Swifts, swallows and house martins need a home too.



Mammals - try adding a hedgehog home and hedgehog-friendly fencing. If bats visit your garden, consider installing a bat box!



Invertebrates - bee banks, solitary bee hotels and insect homes are all fantastic additions. Leaving leaf litter, stone and log piles will be just as good.



Amphibians - In addition to providing a pond, consider creating homes for frogs and toads in dark, damp areas. During the winter, leave your leaf litter a little longer to support them.



More information on appropriate animal homes, and where to put them, can be found on our website.

All animals, including insects, need water. Remember to add stones and slopes so they can get out

Any space can transform into a wildlife garden, ranging from a small window box to a golf course



Small wildlife pond 35x35cm © Abbie Ferrar



Hedge-in-a-box for urban areas © Abbie Ferrar



Roadside verge in Blanford © Phil Sterling



Banchory Golf Course © Ewen Cameron



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St Machar's Cathedral Kirkyard © Ian Talboys



James Hutton Institute Car Park © Abbie Ferrar

More information



Scotia Seeds, The Habitat People and Curam Fyvie specialise in selling native seeds and plants.



Join the NESBiP Wildlife Gardening Facebook Group. Where other wildlife gardeners can offer you some hints, tips and advice.



The **NESBiP website** provides a wealth of resources sourced from various charities, businesses, local authorities, community groups, and more. We've done the research for you!

<http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk>
Get Involved → Wildlife Gardening



About us

The North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP) is taking action for biodiversity through partnership. Members of the partnership are drawn from Local Government, Statutory Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The Partnership aims to empower communities to take on many topics and develop "joined-up" approaches to tackling biodiversity threats.

In order to maximise everyone's limited resources and achieve the best outcomes, we have learned that collaboration is crucial. And that it is just as important to work with others outside our partnership and to find ways of making progress, even with those we may not always agree with.



We hope you enjoyed our Wild About Your Garden.

We would love to hear from you and how your wildlife gardening journey is going.

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www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk

www.facebook.com/nesbip

www.instagram.com/nesbip

www.youtube.com/@nesbip

Front image Bumblebee by Ian Talboys. Back image Dark Green Fritillary by Abbie Ferrar

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