

Wildlife Gardening: Did you know that?

- Climate, wildlife and our food are closely linked?
- Food systems often cause environmental damage (eg Beef in the Amazon)
- Damaged peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions – so please buy peat free compost*
- Gardens in England are valuable wildlife habitat – bigger than all national nature reserves
- biodiversity decline in UK is serious – 1 in 10 species face extinction
- Insects are essential – food for other animals and birds AND they pollinate our tomatoes, beans, etc
- Going chemical free in your garden will protect insects
- Flowering plants feed bees and butterflies in the summer but.....
- ... wildlife also need habitat for food, shelter, & breeding places throughout the year.
- **Native** trees, bushes, flowers usually provide more food for wildlife than exotic, introduced species
- Weeds are successful native plants – important food sources for wildlife
- **“Untidy”** gardens are far more valuable wildlife habitat than neatly weeded flower beds and grassy lawns (and you can have both!)
- You can create a wildlife reserve in your garden with a wildlife pond; a native hedge; log piles and a wildflower meadow (and a lawn too!)
- Beetles are vital - so make a beetle bank, a dead hedge, or a beetle bucket
- Compost heaps provide homes for worms, beetles, centipedes (even harmless grass snakes) AND recycle garden & kitchen waste into soil.