

Welcoming Wildlife Key

A basic guide to the needs and effects of wildlife in your garden.

	Insects	Birds	Reptiles, amphibians	Mammals, bats*
Common Types	Bees, Hoverflies, Butterflies, Ants, Ladybugs, Beetles, Dragonflies, Orb spiders	Hummingbird, Swallow, Wren, Cardinal, Robin, Jay, Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Chickadee	Frogs, Newts, Snakes, Turtles	Field mice, Moles, Skunks, Opossum, Deer, Squirrel, Chipmunks *Brown Bat
Benefits	Pollinators, predators of slugs, snails, and other pests.	Insect eater, seed dispersal, manure	Insect and slug eaters, snakes are predators of mammals	Slug & snail eater, adds diversity, seed dispersal, manure, soil aerators *Eats insects, makes guano
Shelter	Brush, mulch, nurse log, undisturbed corners & pockets	Bird houses, snags, trees for nesting, nesting materials, hedgerows	Marsh, sheltered pond, wetland, rock/brush piles, stone walls	Hedgerows, trees, bramble, snags, woodpiles *Bat houses, trees, attics
Water	Pond, standing water, bird bath, moist soil	Shallow water, bird baths, ponds, running water	Standing water, ponds, marsh	Running water, clear pools
Space	Open sunny areas (meadow, lawn, warm rocks or bricks...)	Perches and varied tree heights	Sunny rocks or logs, sheltered waters, shaded moist soil or water	Foraging areas, water source, hidden nest. (Full range of space may include nearby parks, ravines, streams, etc..)
Food	Pollen, nectar, other insects, slug eggs	Berries (attracted to red first, white, and yellow last), seeds, insects	Insects, small mammals, algae	Berries, nuts, fruit, slugs, snails, insects, human food, mushrooms, *Moths, flying night insects
Plants to Attract	Fennel, Poppy, Marigold, Lilac, Sunflower, Hops, Snapdragon, Red Clover, Lavendar, Nasturtium	Hawthorn, Yew, Dogwood, Holly, Alder, Vine Maple, grasses, Teasel, Mahonia, Honeysuckle	Water lily, flowering rush, water iris, water mint, Willow, Cattail	Fruit and nut trees, Willow, Firs, Laurel *Night blooming or scented plants

Monthly schedule of wildlife garden projects

January:

Start wildlife observation journal, Keep bird feeders full, Build bat boxes

February:

Prune and trim perennials, Build nesting boxes, Continue feeding birds

March:

Reduce bird feeding, Mulch, Start tender/half hardy annuals inside

April:

Put away bird seed tables/feeders, Sow hardy annual seeds outside, Build and plant wildlife pond

May:

Plant for summer and autumn, Plant native hedgerow, Plant tender/half hardy annuals outside

June:

Sow biennial seeds outdoors, Lift and divide spring blooming bulbs, Build walls or rock landscaping

July:

Record butterfly varieties and volume, Keep water bowls and bird baths full, Establish or improve upon Zone 5 (woodpile, nettle patch, paving stones for reptiles...)

August:

Observe active wildlife, Water plants and bird baths, Plan herb/flower bed

September:

Harvest fruit (leave some for wildlife), Collect seed (leave some for wildlife), Sow a wildflower lawn

October:

Plant spring flowering bulbs, Transplant and divide perennials, Plant trees and shrubs (plan a woodland habitat corner)

November:

Mulch beds and borders, Keep ponds free of leaves, Start new compost heap with autumn biomass

December:

Start feeding birds, Create winter habitats away from house (piles of logs, stones, grasses), Plan annual beds

[The Naturalist Garden](#) by Ruth Shaw Ernst

[Creating Small Habitats for Wildlife in Your Garden](#) by Josie Briggs

[Your Backyard Wildlife Garden](#) by Marcus Schneck

[The Wild Garden](#) by Lucy Huntington

[Attracting Backyard Wildlife \(A Guide for Nature Lovers\)](#) by Bill Merilees

[The Wildlife Gardener](#) by John V. Dennis

[The Wildlife Garden \(month-by-month\)](#) by Jackie Bennet