



#TeamWilder Toolkit: Wildlife Actions – Quick Wins for Wildlife.

Want to know where to start? Try here!

If you only have a small space, limited budget, and little time you might want to consider these actions that anyone can do:

1. Food

Food for every season: Start watching your garden, looking out for when you are lacking in flowers, make a note of the months when you are lacking food for pollinators. Then whenever you buy, sow, or receive a new plant try and plug these gaps! Our **#TeamWilder Toolkit: Wildlife Actions – Food** includes a list of flowers for every season!

Leave your weeds: So much of our native wildlife relies on native plants. Plants considered to be ‘weeds’ are valuable food for caterpillars, birds, and pollinators. If you have a weed that you are at war with then do some investigation about the wildlife, it supports, and this may make you find a space for it in your garden. You can transform your relationship with these plants overnight and start valuing its contribution to your garden rather than reaching for a trowel every time you see it!



Image credit: Andy Gibson

2. Shelter

Big or small, some **deadwood** will provide food and shelter for many little animals and in turn provide a feast for bigger animals in your garden. Some rotting logs will bring so much diversity to your garden and provide a dark, damp habitat for hiding and sleeping. All-natural wood is useful, big logs, rounds of wood, piles of sticks. You can even just put a little log in the end of a planter!

Even in a small garden or yard there is space for a **bee hotel**, solitary bees like many of our bees are suffering massive decline because of habitat loss. By providing food and shelter for these bees



Image credit: Adam Cormack

in your garden and encouraging others to join you (buy them or make them as presents) then this collapse can be reversed. Solitary bees are not aggressive as they have nothing to protect, male bees do not even have a sting!

If you have space, then leave a **tangle** at the bottom or corner of your garden to go wild. Allow this place for plants that you might get rid of in other parts of your garden. A space for brambles, nettles, thistles, and docks to flourish!



3. Water

Ground Level water dish: All year round all animals need access to water and this can be in short supply because of drought and the loss of ponds and wetlands. Put a bowl of water on the floor of your garden or yard, you can put some stones in so that smaller animals can perch and drink. Make sure you keep it fresh and defrosted in the winter.



Image credit: Penny Dixie

Bucket or container pond: Making a pond can seem like a huge task and if you are not quite ready for the challenge or you are lacking in space then make a small pond in a container. It can be a habitat and a source of drinking water and is **the best thing** you can do to increase the range of wildlife in your garden.

4. Management

Peat free compost: By 2024 all compost containing peat will be banned from sale, so get ahead of the game and start experimenting with alternatives. Find your favourite types for different uses and share your findings with friends and neighbours.

There are some brilliant ways to change your gardening habits to **get rid of chemicals** from your garden and help wildlife all at the same time. Knowing that there are so many animals in desperate need of help from gardeners is a good way to motivate you to start thinking differently about gardening. Out with the old, in with the new ... you will never look back!

5. Connectivity

Collaborating with your neighbours to make a **hedgehog highway** is a great way to start a wildlife friendly community in your local area.



Image credit: Jo Rawson

Even slightly changing your lawn habits can transform a barren area into a place for insects to thrive and provide shelter for all sorts of animals. Let your lawn grow and **participate in No Mow May!** If you notice more wildlife visiting your lawn, consider leaving a patch or strip of lawn long throughout the summer.

Chat to your neighbours about what you are doing in your garden, you might inspire others and find new ways to collaborate.

6. Resources

The Wildlife Trust and RHS have created some amazing booklets on different topics, follow this link <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening> or click on the word for more information about:

[Butterflies](#) [Ponds](#) [Hedgehogs](#) [Worms](#) [Bats](#) [Bees](#) [Swifts](#) [Beetles](#) [Lawns](#)

Our best book buys: How to Make a Wildlife Garden by Chris Baines (More to be added soon)

This toolkit has been created with credit to The Wildlife Trusts.

