



How to make where you live, work and play super friendly for wildlife



**LIVE
HERE
LOVE
HERE**



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



There are lots of steps we can make to create homes and food for all sorts of wildlife....here are a few:

Find more advice:

[UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme](#)

[All Ireland Pollinator Plan](#)

[Royal Horticultural Society](#)





Don't Mow, Let It Grow!!

There is no need to buy expensive wildflower seed; by simply not mowing and letting the grass grow long, native wildflowers will appear through time – things like clover, buttercup, ragged robin etc. plus you have created somewhere to live and food for other creatures such as birds and hedgehogs.

Mow paths through long grasses, or maybe provide log seating areas so everyone can enjoy the area.

Creating signage which provides information and informs the wider community about the benefits to wildlife is great for bringing the whole community behind a common goal.



Plant Native Hedges

Hedges with the right sort of plants are incredible places for all sorts of wildlife to live, feel safe, have shelter and food and raise their families.

A mixed “fruiting, flowering” or “wildlife” hedge could contain some or all of the following

varieties:

- Hawthorn**
- Blackthorn**
- Crab apples**
- Dog rose**
- Guelder Rose**
- Ivy**
- Bramble/blackberry**
- Elder**
- Rowan**
- Wild cherry**
- Dogwood**
- Hazel**
- Field Maple**



As well as providing for nature, native hedgerows can also provide us with a delicious harvest too; elderflowers and elderberries, haws, sloes, rosehips, crab apples, blackberries.



Plant Trees

As well as fruit trees and bushes and nut trees, native tree species are a lifeline for wildlife, and they absorb carbon from the atmosphere and purify the air at the same time.

Trees such as:

- Apples, including crab apples
- Willow
- Hawthorn
- Lime
- Horse chestnut
- Bird Cherry
- Birch
- Beech
- Hornbeam
- Rowan
- Oak
- Holly
- Scot's pine
- Field Maple



Grow Your Own Food

There is something completely satisfying about growing your own food. Not only is it sustainable, healthy and great exercise, a recent study from Bristol University found that allotments had the most diverse insect populations highest of any urban habitat.



Create raised beds or planters or allotment sites complete with a mini orchards; perhaps a shared polytunnel or greenhouse.



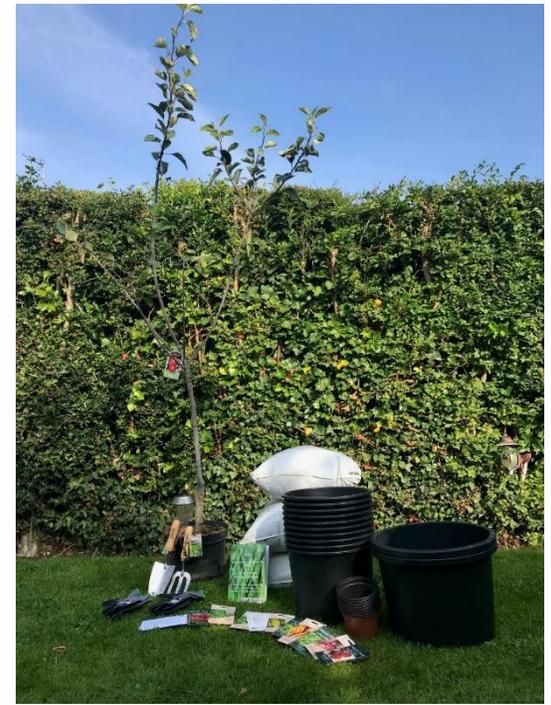
Plant Fruit Trees and Fruit Bushes

Fruit trees and fruit bushes are a great idea for low maintenance, permanent food production.

An orchard of any size creates habitat for all sorts of wildlife and provides food for pollinating insects.

In addition, if the grass is left to grow throughout the orchard, with mown paths perhaps for access, even more habitat is created.

Soft fruit such as raspberries, blueberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries and blackberries grow really well in the Northern Irish climate.



Create More Homes for Wildlife

Leaving a log pile to rot down provides a home for a whole world of creatures. Piles of stones or slates which are left undisturbed also provide a home for many insects.



Build Bird Boxes, Bat Boxes, Bug Hotels and Hedgehog houses

Make nesting boxes for birds, bee habitats, a hedgehog house and bat boxes. Different species of birds need different sized holes and it's important to put these homes in the right place.

Click the images below to find more information and instructions:



Build a Pond

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Choose Peat Free Compost

Our peatlands are incredibly good at storing carbon and water, and also very important and diverse habitats for all kinds of plants and animals.



In an ideal world we'd all be making our own compost, but if you have to buy compost choose "peat free" or if that isn't an option, choose the compost with the lowest percentage of peat that you can.



Make a Compost Heap

Making compost is a natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your plants.

Compost feeds all sorts of soil organisms and healthy soil means healthy crops!

It also provides a home for worms, millipedes, woodlice and lots of other insects.

Your fruit trees and vegetables and flowers will love the addition of garden compost around their bases.



Choose Plants for Pollinators and Ditch the Bedding Plants

For containers, planters and hanging baskets choose flowering plants which are perennial (ie permanent) if possible and good for pollinators. This will also save money (and work and compost) long term. If choosing annuals, some excellent choices are listed below, and those to avoid.

Avoid these bedding plants Bred for showiness & do not provide food for pollinators.	Good for pollinators <u>Annuals</u>	Good for pollinators, <u>Perennial</u>	Good for Pollinators, <u>Perennial Herbs</u>
Geraniums	Nasturtiums (edible flowers and leaves)	Lavender	Chives
Petunias	Calendula (edible flowers)	Echinops	Garlic chives
Begonias	Cornflower (edible flowers)	Echinacea	Rosemary
Busy Lizzie	Wallflowers	Foxglove	Thyme
Double flowered French and African marigolds	Tagetes minuta	Aquilegia	Herb fennel
Nemesia	Borage (edible flowers)	Hellebore	Sage
	Cosmos	Erigeron	Anise Hyssop
	Cerithe major 'Purpurascens'	Eryngium	Sweet Cicely
	Scabious	Astrantia	Lemon balm
	Alyssum	Aliums	Mint
	Rudbeckia	Salvia	
	Bidens	Verbena Bonariensis	
	Bocopa	Catmint (Nepeta)	
		White clover	
		Red clover	
		Crocus	
		Muscari	

