



Staffordshire
Wildlife Trust

WILD AT HOME **12 MONTH** **PLANNER**

www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk





GET WILD AT HOME

CREATE A HAVEN FOR YOU, AS WELL AS WILDLIFE

Do you have access to a garden or any outdoor space? Why not turn it into a haven for wildlife!

It could be as simple as letting your grass grow or for the more adventurous creating your own mini pond. From bird boxes to butterfly friendly planting, a mini pond or log pile - there's an action for everyone.

By following our top tips for each month, you can create a wild space at home, whether that's in your garden or on your balcony.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Once you've started getting wild home, if you need any further instructions for any of the actions in this booklet or want some more inspiration visit:

www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/actions



EVERY WILDER SPACE PROVIDES A VITAL LINK FOR WILDLIFE



With an estimated 24 million gardens of all shapes and sizes in the UK, the actions you take at home can make a **big** difference for wildlife.

No matter how small the space, when linked up they create corridors to allow wildlife to move around which has a big impact on nature.

Every action you take will make a difference to declining wildlife, by creating space for nature you will not only help the nature crisis but benefit yourself and family.

So give it a go and watch as wildlife brings colour, movement and beauty to your wild space. What will your top actions be?

My To Do List

1.

2.

3.

JANUARY

- Build or put up bird nesting boxes.
- Put out bird seed in winter.
- Provide water for birds.
- Don't be too tidy in the garden, leave old flower heads and stems as insects like to shelter in them.
- Take part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch.
- Start your own nature diary.
- Plant a wild cherry tree.

**TOP TIPS FOR BIRD NESTING BOXES**

Different types of box will attract different species. Think carefully about whether there is sufficient food available before putting up boxes for insect feeding birds.

Place your box in a sheltered position on a tree or wall, as close to North east as possible to avoid overheating or getting too wet.

If decorating your box, use a water-based paint and not lead-based paints or creosote, as these are toxic to birds.



TO DO
LIST

FEBRUARY



Get a water butt/barrel.



Clean bird feeders monthly and top up regularly
If using peanuts, use a proper peanut feeder as whole nuts can choke young chicks.



Build a pond to catch water and help wildlife.
If you don't have much space, make a mini pond in a shallow dish.



Put up bat boxes. They are more likely to be used during their first summer if they are put up before the bats emerge from hibernation.



Look out for early frogspawn at this time.



Grow broad beans and sow sweet pea seeds.



DID YOU KNOW?

The UK is home to 18 species of bat, the largest being the noctule which weighs the same as four £1 coins, and the smallest is the Pipistrelle, which weighs as little as a 2p coin. This diminutive bat has a giant appetite, however – it is known to gobble up more than 500 insects in an hour!





- Make a bee hotel.**
- Plant summer bulbs like alliums and muscari.**
- Plant lavender for the bees.**
- Start composting garden waste and veg peelings in a garden compost heap - many creatures find shelter in them.**
- Plant native wildflowers, like ragged robin and red campion.**

HOW TO MAKE A BEE HOTEL

- Step 1:** Use untreated wood to make a rectangular frame that the stems will sit inside.
- Step 2:** Using hollow stems of different diameters (2-10mm) such as bramble, reed or bamboo, snip to different lengths to fit your frame. Discard any bent or knobbly ones.
- Step 3:** Carefully pack your frame with stems. The whole thing will lock solid once all stems are in place.
- Step 4:** Add a backing board to the bee hotel and hang or stand it in your garden.





- Take part in #GrowDon'tMow.
- Plant sunflowers, ox-eye daisies, foxgloves & knapweed.
- Maintain water features and ponds. Now is the time to plant pond plants.
- Sow wildflower seeds.
- Avoid trimming hedges and trees as you may disturb nesting birds.
- Look out for swallows.



SCAN ME



Help the wildlife on your doorstep by locking away your mower with our #GrowDon'tMow campaign!

Take part in #GrowDon'tMow to save time and enjoy visits from bees, butterflies, hedgehogs and all sorts of wonderful wildlife in your own gardens.

Your challenge can be large or small. Either turn a small patch or the whole garden wild - it is up to you! All you have to do is leave the grass and watch it grow... easy!



#GoPottyforWildlife by planting seeds in recycled pots providing food for pollinators.



Source peat-free compost.



Plant herbs such as marjoram and sage (good in pots too) as these are great for bees.



Put in your bedding plants and plant up hanging baskets. Yellow and purple flowers will attract butterflies.



Plant some nectar-rich plants for bees and butterflies such as hardy geraniums and buddleia.



Watch out for tadpoles in your pond.

TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS ALL ABOUT IT!

Joining in local actions shows the community that you care about wildlife. Download our #GoPottyforWildlife sign to pop in your pots to show that you support a #wilderstaffordshire - it could spark a conversation that gets your friends and neighbours involved too.



SCAN ME

Find out more about Go Potty for Wildlife and download our sign to show support

Did you know...

we have three charity shops in Leek, Penkridge & Godsall?



Pop in to have a look for some unique pots!



I support a
WILDER
Staffordshire





STOP using pesticides in your garden.

Sow perennial scabiosa in pots or trays for bee and butterfly friendly flowers.

Sign up to 30 Days Wild on our website for your free downloadable kit.

Sign The Wildlife Trusts Action for Insects campaign.

Sow hardy annuals and poppies at this time of year.

Create a damp, boggy patch for wildlife such as frogs, to provide shelter from the heat.



- 1. Attract wildlife to your garden to help keep insect numbers down. Hedgehogs and frogs help to keep slugs at bay.**
- 2. Plant 'companion' plants among other plants to help them grow. Find out more.**
- 3. Use crushed eggshells and coffee grounds scattered around plants or even copper to repel slugs. Salt is not recommended.**
- 4. Rotate the timing or the location of your plants to avoid recurring infestations from pests that remain dormant in the soil.**



SCAN ME





- Make a window box.
- Grow herbs such as coriander, parsley and basil.
- Plant honeysuckle, it attracts bees and smells beautiful too.
- Use a tub or shallow dish to create a bird bath.
- Look out for the hummingbird hawk moths.

If you have the space let a patch of nettles grow, they are great for providing shelter to wildlife and butterflies love their flowers.

Herb gardens can be planted in raised beds, borders, containers or window boxes, any space will do.

Planting herbs will attract important pollinators such as birds and butterflies, which will, in turn, attract birds and small mammals looking for a meal.

Grouping planters together provides shelter for wildlife between them and increases your watering efficiency.



ROSEMARY

CARAWAY

HYSSOP

ENGLISH LAVENDER

COMMON SAGE

WILD THYME

FENNEL

CHIVES

COMMON MINT

WILD MARJORAM



- Make a bug hotel.
- Clean bird baths each month.
- Water plants regularly using water from your butt.
- Keep ponds topped up.
- Create a hedgehog highway and ask your neighbours to do the same.
- Plan a wild street party. Get your neighbours to come to together and take some wild actions with you

HOW TO MAKE A HEDGEHOG HOLE

Hedgehogs need to roam far and wide in search of food, mates and nesting sites - the average hedgehog roams 2km a night!

1. Remove a fence panel and measure and mark a 13cm x 13cm hole at the bottom of the panel.
2. Using a coping saw, cut out the marked hole. Use sandpaper to smooth any rough edges.
3. Put your fence panel back. Your hedgehog highway is now open for business!



WILD STREET PARTY

SEPTEMBER



- Cut grass once all of the flowers have gone after #GrowDon'tMow.
- Use some of your grass clippings to create a habitat house for creatures to hibernate in over winter.
- Make your own compost using your grass clippings and other garden waste such as leaves and woody material.
- Plant native bulbs for Spring such as crocuses, daffodils, hyacinthus and snowdrops.

HABITAT HOUSE CHALLENGE

- Step 1:** Once you decide to make the cut, leave the cuttings to dry out for a few days
- Step 2:** Shake the seeds out ready to sow for next year
- Step 3:** Get some woody cuttings from your shrubs ready to make a hibernation sandwich with your grass cuttings
- Step 4:** Find a nice spot, layer the grass cuttings up along with the woody shrub cuttings and keep doing this until you get a big pile of lovely natural insect habitat
- Step 5:** Get ready to start #GrowDon'tMow all over again!





Plant plant berry-rich trees and shrubs for the birds such as hawthorn, rowan or holly.

Take part in the Big Wild Walk. Fundraise for The Wildlife Trusts whilst getting outdoors enjoying nature. Visit our website to sign up.

Check our charity shops for some great Halloween costumes.

Now is the time of year to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and to try and plant for the future. Growing trees from seed is easier than you might think – and it's lots of fun!

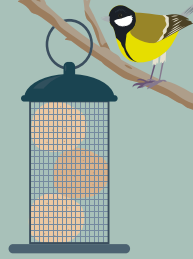


DID YOU KNOW?

Halloween costumes are often made up of **90%** plastic. An incredible **7 million Halloween costumes** are thrown away each year in the UK. Try making your own from recycled materials and household objects.

HOMEMADE BIRD FEEDERS

Making homemade bird feeders for birds is a cheap and fun way of encouraging more birds to visit your garden. Those calories could make all the difference for winter



METHOD TO MAKE A BIRD FEEDER

Step 1:

Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl

Step 2:

Add the fat and give it a good mix around

Step 3:

Choose your feeder and attach string - if using the pot or shell you will need to make a hole in the bottom (which will become the top) tie a knot in the string and thread it through.

Step 4:

Either plaster your feed mixture all over the pine, put it around the inside of the coconut shell or press it into a yogurt pot.

Step 5:

Hang your feeders by the string where you can watch birds without disturbing them.

What you need

- Bird Seed
- Cooked Rice
- Grated Cheese
- Dried Fruit
- Breadcrumbs
- Chopped Nuts
- Hard Cooking Fat
- A Pine Cone, Coconut Shell Or Yoghurt Pot
- Strong String

Use an old yogurt pot for this, and always recycle after it's been used

MOULDS FOR HOMEMADE BIRD FEEDER



Coconut Shells - Half a coconut shells with a hole drilled through the top.

Add your mixture and let it set in the fridge. Tie it up on a tree branch.

Yoghurt Pots - Make a small hole in the bottom of a clean pot. Thread a string through the hole. Tie a large knot or tie it around a small stick to secure.

Spoon in the mixture, remove the yoghurt pot when cooled and hardened.



TO DO
LIST

NOVEMBER

To make sure you're planting the right tree, in the right place, head to our webpage all about tree planting.



SCAN ME



Plant snowdrops.



Plant a tree whilst the the roots are dormant.



Clean out nest boxes.



TIPS FOR CLEANING YOUR NESTBOX:



After the end of each breeding season, all nestboxes should be taken down, old nesting materials removed, and the box should be scalded with boiling water to kill any parasites. Do not use insecticides or flea-powders – boiling water is adequate. Annual cleaning is best carried out in October or November.

Under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, if unhatched eggs are found in the box, they can only legally be removed from October to January inclusive, and they must be destroyed – it is illegal to keep them.

TOP TIP

Before you light your bonfire check for hedgehogs. Lift parts of the bonfire section by section using a broom. Do not use a fork, spade or rake as this may injure a hedgehog.



TO DO
LIST

DECEMBER

- Make a wreath for birds.
- Make a homemade bird feeder.
- Plant holly & ivy.



TOP TIPS FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

Use brown paper or a reusable wrapping option instead of shiny, glittery wrapping paper which is not recyclable.

Sellotape is made of plastic – use brown paper tape or get creative with some ribbon or string.

Avoid tinsel (it's plastic) and make your own - bunting, origami, pinecone decorations, holly leaves.

Turn off your Christmas lights overnight and when you are out the house to save energy.

Opt for secondhand gifts and support charity shops or for gifts with minimum or recyclable packaging.

Adopt an animal as a gift or give the gift of a Wildlife Trust membership.

<https://join.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/Join-Online>

Opt for a Christmas tree in a pot that can be reused each year.



WILD AT HOME

12 MONTH PLANNER

JANUARY

- Build or put up nesting boxes
- Put out bird seed in winter
- Leave dead foliage for insects



FEBRUARY

- Get a water butt/barrel
- Build a pond
- Put up bat boxes



MARCH

- Make a bee hotel
- Plant lavender for the bees
- Plant summer bulbs like alliums and muscari.



APRIL

- Take part in #GrowDon'tMow
- Leave a wild patch
- Grow sunflowers and tomatoes



MAY

- #GoPottyForWildlife
- Source peat-free compost
- Create a hedgehog highway

JUNE

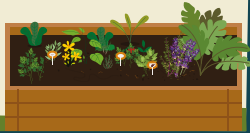
- Stop using pesticides
- Take part in 30 Days Wild
- Plant pumpkins ready for October





JULY

- Grow herbs
- Make a window box
- Use a tub to create a bird bath



AUGUST

- Make a bug hotel
- Create a hedgehog highway
- Water plants regularly using water butt



SEPTEMBER

- Cut your grass
- Make a habitat house
- Plant bulbs for Spring



OCTOBER

- Have an eco-friendly Halloween
- Join in the Big Wild Walk
- Plant winter heather



NOVEMBER

- Plant trees
- Clean nest boxes
- Plant native snowdrops



DECEMBER

- Make a wreath for birds
- Have an eco-friendly Christmas
- Plant holly & ivy





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