



Gardens and small plots of land

Food, shelter, water, management and connectivity. Small steps can add up to a big impact for Nature Recovery. Here are some ideas to try in your own garden or plot.



Food

- Bird feeders
- Native fruit trees (apples, pears, damson, cherry)
- Berry-bearing shrubs & plants
- Food for hedgehogs (wet or dry dog or cat food - meat based)
- Companion planting for natural pest & disease control (eg Nasturums to attract predatory insects that eat aphids or chives/garlic to deter carrot fly)
- Wildflower patches - red campion, ox-eye daisy, foxglove, agrimony
- Leave seed heads over winter
- Late autumn flowers - Michaelmas Daisies, Ivy, Buddleia
- Winter flowers - Hellebores, Winter heather
- Night-scented flowers (insects, moths and bats may eat the insects) - Honeysuckle, Common Jasmine, Evening Primrose
- Shade-loving plants - Ferns, Wood Anemone
- Herbs – wild marjoram, rosemary, thyme, sage, lavender & chives are all great for wildlife.
- Early spring flowers – dandelions, primrose
- Pollinator plants in containers, window boxes

Shelter

- Dead wood, log piles, tree stumps
- Rock and stone piles
- Climbing plants on walls or trellis
- Solitary bee or insect hives/bee bricks
- A native, mature tree
- A wild corner with nettle, bramble, thistle & dock
- Dead hedge
- Nest boxes for birds (esp swift boxes)
- Bat boxes
- Hedgehog house or piles of leaves
- Amphibian or reptile hibernaculum
- A hedgerow with native species - Holly, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Dog Rose, Hazel
- Compost heap

Water

- Wildlife pond (no fish)
- Shallow water dish for insects/hedgehogs
- Bog or permanently wet patch
- Bucket or container pond
- Bird bath
- Drought-resistant plants





Management

- Peat-free compost
- No herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, slug pellets
- Wormery
- Seedheads & stems left uncut over winter
- Home-made plant fees (eg Comfrey)
- Wildflowers as part of unmown lawns
- Plastic-free gardening
- Biodegradable/non-sphagnum moss hanging basket liners
- Compost bin or area
- Planters made from recycled pots (eg old wellies)
- Leaf pile in a quiet corner
- Green manuring (legumes, clover, dig in wood ash from log burner)
- No Mow May, June & July
- Green roof on shed/house/outbuildings

Larger plots

- Large hedges left over winter with berries etc
- Cutting hedgerows incrementally and on rotation (not each year in September)
- Wide, grassy field margins
- Tree planting and/or allowing natural regeneration
- Pond/lake creation/restoration
- Meadow creation/restoration
- Part of ELM Scheme
- Dead hedge creation
- Restoration of wild flower verges
- Limit animal grazing to encourage biodiversity
- No chemicals
- No artificial fertiliser
- Allow fallen wood, and standing dead-wood

Connectivity

- Native, mixed hedge around boundaries
- Patches/strips of lawn left to grow
- Dry stone wall
- Improving local area - litter picking/communal gardens)
- Rows of trees or shrubs or dead hedge
- Hedgehog highway (hole in fence or tunnel underneath)
- Helping others go wilder – sharing ideas
- Restoring verges to wildflowers creating long linear meadows

