

THE GREEN GUIDE TO:

Gardening for Wildlife

Gardeners play a vital role in supporting wildlife.

In Kent, flying insects alone have declined by **more than 70% in less than 20 years**. These are the bees, butterflies, and other insects that are essential for the pollination of crops and as a food source for birds and animals such as hedgehogs.

Gardens have become increasingly important havens for wildlife. You can make a big difference by making small changes to the way you garden.

Here are 5 things you can do to help nurture nature in your garden today.

1. Let it grow

Give yourself a break and let your grass grow a bit longer. Longer lawns create more shelter for insects and allow native plants in grasses a chance to flower and provide food for pollinators.

Try mowing less frequently, cutting your lawn higher or leaving an unmown patch.

2. Plant for pollinators

Grow bee-friendly plants to provide important nourishment for pollinators. In general, avoid plants with double flowers, which often have very little pollen or nectar and are difficult for insects to access. Instead, plant single open flower varieties. You'll find lots of plants for pollinators in garden centres; *look out for this logo*.



3. Water for wildlife!

Create a wildlife watering hole in your garden. Birds, mammals and insects get thirsty just like us. Help them out by simply placing a saucer of water with some pebbles in it at ground level. Keep it refreshed to avoid spreading diseases.

If you have a bit more space, consider creating a pond, you'll attract and support a plethora of wonderful wildlife. Check out the RSPB's handy 'How to guide' [here](#).



4. Help a hedgehog!

Tenterden is blessed with a population of hedgehogs. You can help them travel from garden to garden for their nightly forage by making a hole in your fence; it only needs to be 13cm wide. Be sure to agree on any fence-cutting with neighbours and landlords before getting started.

Find more ways to help hedgehogs with these [simple tips](#).

5. Cut the chemicals!

Pesticides don't just kill pests and weeds; they often kill the animals and birds that eat them too!

Try beer traps and gravel to protect vulnerable plants from slugs and snails, and ditch the weedkillers for the gentler approach of hand weeding, hoeing and mulching to banish weeds. Take a look at this simple [guide](#) for more chemical-free gardening tips and tricks.



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In Partnership with
Tenterden
Wildlife
Turning the tide for nature

Discover more ideas to support Kent wildlife in your garden [here](#).

Why not join our local wildlife group Tenterden Wildlife today? Drop them a line: tenterdenwildlife@outlook.com