

Activities

Creating a habitat pile

These can be piles of logs, stones, hollow stems and canes, or just about anything else. A habitat pile will provide food and shelter for a wide variety of insects. Habitat piles should be placed in partial shade directly on soil or turf.

If possible use logs from broad leaved trees like oak, ash, beech, elm and sycamore.

You can increase the numbers of available hiding places by drilling holes of various sizes in a few of the logs.

Create a Lacewing habitat

Roll up a piece of corrugated cardboard and place inside a waterproof container such as an old lemonade bottle with the top cut off. Hang in shrubs or trees

Create a bee habitat

Take a large tin can (catering food tins or coffee containers are ideal). If a tin can is not available try a 2 litre drinks bottle with the top and bottom removed. If using a tin you will need to paint it so that it will not rust. Cut bamboo lengths (or large paper straws) to fit the can and place inside, ensure the lengths are about 5-8mm internal diameter and are packed tight so they will not fall out. Hang in a sunny sheltered position.

Create a hiding place for beetles

Take an old plant pot (preferably a terracotta one) and stuff full of straw, place upside down under a hedge or in long grass. Ensure the lip is kept off the ground using a small stone.

Basically any sheltered undisturbed area of the garden will harbour wildlife so try and incorporate a variety of habitats into the space.

Make a winter bird-cake

You will need the following ingredients / equipment:

- Mixed garden bird food
- Lard (1 part fat to 2 parts bird food)
- Empty yoghurt pots
- 25cm lengths of string
- Saucepan
- Wooden spoon
- Mixing bowl

Method:

Melt lard in saucepan. Place bird food into mixing bowl and get an adult to add the melted lard.

Get children to stir the mixture.

Place the string into yoghurt pots so that it coils around the bottom and also protrudes from the top. Spoon in the mixture until pot is full. Leave to cool and set. Once set, dip pot into warm water for a second and slide out the cake from the mould, and hang from trees.