



# The Green Page



## HOW GREEN DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Did you know that the UK's gardens cover a combined area bigger than the Lake District and the Peak District put together? That's a lot of potential for attracting wildlife and planting some beneficial plants.

The Woodland Trust, RSPB and Bumblebee Conservation Trust (to mention just a few) have a lot of advice for turning your plot a bit more environmentally friendly but the top tip seems to be -

-Go Native! Planting native plants or even better a native tree or two is the best way to attract and support wildlife.

Here are a few more ideas, perhaps you can add to these suggestions? Please email your top tips to the editor.

- Collect rainwater and water your plants early morning or late evening.
- Get composting! Veg peelings, weeds, a bit of cardboard, even those unsightly grass cutting that get dumped out on the verge, can all be turned into home made, money saving compost.
- Mix your own fertilisers, Comfrey makes a particularly good fertiliser.
- Have a water feature, even if it's just a small tray of water.  
(If you have a padding pool or straight sided pond, please remember to float something flat on the water to help insects and birds to get out and hopefully not drown)
- Improve access by leaving small holes in your boundary, a hedgehog only needs a 13 cm x 13 cm hole to get in and out of your garden!
- Leave a few areas a bit "scruffy" - great for all kinds of critters!
- If you need outdoor lights, choose solar powered ones.
- Grow some fruit and veg, there will be no need for your home grown tomatoes or raspberries to be on a tray then shrink wrapped in plastic!
- Encourage the birds. Not only are they very entertaining but they are nature's ultimate bug eaters!
- Plant for bees and butterflies. A few native plants for each season can only be good for all pollinators.

And don't forget to have somewhere that you can sit and observe nature going about its business!

....A little quote from Alan Titchmarsh

**“ Sometimes all a garden needs is a good coat of looking at”**