

Three Towns Growers

Allotments and Community Garden

WILDLIFE GARDENING CALENDAR

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide water all year round for birds – use hot water when it is freezing. • Clear snow off plot and crumble fat balls for the birds • Join the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch - www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch • Plan a herb bed on south facing and on poor soil for nectar loving insects.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim hedges after berries have been eaten but before bird nesting begins in March. • Plant honeysuckle for nectar, berries, and nesting and roosting sites. • Plant wildflowers, best sown in spring or autumn or plant wildflower plants/plugs. • Cut grasses in late January/February if a lot of winter growth.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create some damp spots to attract amphibians. • Amphibian counts start now – add records to www.recordpool.org.uk • Tie some nesting materials near your bird feeders. • Disinfect/clean bird feeders
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant red berry-bearing shrubs e.g. holly, cotoneasters, pyracantha and skimmia. • Plant sunflowers for finches, and blue, white and yellow flowers for bees. • Plant evergreen shrubs to shelter young birds.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for swifts and send records to www.swift-conservation.org or BTO • Grow caterpillar food plants for butterflies, e.g. honesty and ladies smock for orange tip, buckthorns for brimstone, bird's foot trefoil for common blue. • Plant out nectar plant seedlings by end of the month when no frosts.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching for bats at dusk, send records to Bat Conservation Trust. www.bats.org.uk • Check for bird nests before trimming hedges and shrubs. • Encourage predatory and other insects with bunches of hollow stems in sunny spots.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When using your compost / leaf mould, take care in case grass snakes or hedgehogs are nesting there. • Complete the WWT Garden Wildlife Survey form • Take part in National Moth Night.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep bird baths well topped up. • Let some flowers go to seed and leave heads over winter. • Plant some spring flowering shrubs to give early nectar for insects next year. • Disinfect/clean bird feeders • Take part in International Bat Night.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave some windfall fruit for birds- they will appreciate the water and sugar. • Leave some ivy for late nectar, also seed heads in the flower border, and let vegetation die back naturally. • Build a rockery – the stones will provide shelter for small creatures.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow fruit-bearing native shrubs and trees, e.g. crab apple, holly, elder, birch, rowan or hawthorn, for a winter supply of bird food. • Press fat balls, cheese or mealworms into holes in hanging logs for the insect eaters like tree creepers and goldcrests which need soft food rather than seed.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a few holes in your fences for hedgehogs to roam - they need a big territory. • Rake rotting branches, grass clippings, fallen leaves into heaps and leave them to rot down naturally for hibernation homes. • Leave dried stems and seed heads to provide shelter for over-wintering insects.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover bare areas with ground cover such as periwinkle. • Take care when tidying up greenhouses – some butterflies overwinter as adults. • Put up bird or bat boxes on a building or tree. • Review the year's wildlife records and add wildlife records to Biological Records Centre at iRecord - www.brc.ac.uk/irecord

Three Towns growers is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, charity number SC047569”