February 2026

Easy steps to a greener garden

As gardeners we can do much to help the natural world here's just a few ideas.



Pile up branches, logs and other non-compostable natural materials in a tucked away spot – they'll soon become a useful habitat for many creatures such as hedgehogs and amphibians



We can all do our bit to help prevent flooding and reduce the amount of water our gardens use. There are many beautiful plants that cope well with dry conditions, and there are many ways to reduce your water use, from installing water butts, to recycling grey water to water your plants.



To keep your plant choices as eco-friendly as possible. Use online lists of 'Plants for Pollinators' or look out for the logos on plant labels; these tell you the plant is a particularly good choice for bees and other helpful pollinating insects.



To reduce your gardening carbon footprint, grow from seed as much as you can and use peat-free compost.
When you buy plants, choose British-grown wherever possible. Avoid buying imported plants/trees/seeds if possible. If you're buying plants online check out how their plants have been grown.





By creating habitats, and providing food sources such as berries, leaves and flower pollen we can help wildlife come into our gardens. The best way is to grow lots of different plants, including trees and hedges as well as flowers. Try to leave an undisturbed corner. Put in a pond is a great way to attract wildlife - just make sure that creatures have easy access to get in and out!



Making room for plants will benefit both the wildlife and people who share your neighbourhood. So many front gardens are now paved. Consider having a hedge or a mall tree in your front garden. If this is not possible have a planter or pots where you can grow flowers or even fruit and vegetables.



If you carefully select the plants you buy and grow them in the correct manner you are more likely to enjoy a healthy and happy garden – free of pests and diseases. When problems arise, we really should see them as part of the biodiversity in are gardens rather than pests. The adage that a weed is only a flower in the wrong place, comes to mind. If, however, you do decide to use chemical controls it is important to do so in a minimal targeted way whilst fully adhering to the instructions. If you do resort to chemicals, try to buy organic ones.

Some of the above ideas originated from www.rhs.org.uk