

Weedon & Hardwick *Nature-Friendly* Garden Challenge

Does your garden have what it takes for wildlife? Use the form below to review your garden right now. Congratulations if you meet Bronze level or above. The idea is to encourage you to incorporate additional wildlife friendly features when planning changes.

For a *Wild Weedon & Hardwick Nature-Friendly Garden Certificate* contact us via our website, any time of year.

There are four challenge levels:

Bronze (Welcoming to wildlife)

4-7 wildlife garden features, at least one from each category

Silver (Good for wildlife)

8-11 wildlife garden features, at least two from each category

Gold (Great for wildlife)

12-15 wildlife garden features, at least three from each category

Platinum (Wildlife Haven)

16 or more wildlife garden features, at least four from each category

See our website for inspiration:

www.wildweedon.org.uk

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

email:

Overall requirements

✓ *to confirm*

- ☐ No non-organic pesticides or chemical weedkillers
- ☐ Only Hedgehog-friendly slug pellets

Food Features In Your Garden

✓ *all that apply*

- ☐ Bird feeders (*sited away from nesting boxes*)
- ☐ Nectar-rich flowers
- ☐ Fruit trees or berry-bearing trees/shrubs
- ☐ Perennials left uncut until spring
- ☐ Vegetable patch/container
- ☐ Herb Garden

Garden management

✓ *all that apply*

- ☐ Compost bin/heap
- ☐ Water butt(s)
- ☐ Only peat-free compost in use
- ☐ Area(s) in state of **UN**tidiness!
- ☐ Hedgehog Highway (*suitable gaps in fences*)

Water Features In Your Garden

✓ *all that apply*

- ☐ Wildlife pond (*no fish...maybe minnows*)
- ☐ Bog area / bucket-pond
- ☐ Pond close to dense cover / log or rock piles / long grass
- ☐ Drought-resistant plants
- ☐ Shallow water source for insects / bird bath

Shelter Features In Your Garden

✓ *all that apply*

- ☐ Dead wood / log pile / stone pile
- ☐ Climbing plants on wall/trellis
- ☐ Mixed native hedge (*e.g. Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn...*)
- ☐ Mature trees
- ☐ Lawn left to grow long (*at least in part*)
- ☐ Mini wildflower meadow
- ☐ Bird, bat or hedgehog box
- ☐ Insect hotel / bee hive
- ☐ Nettles, brambles or dense native shrubs

It's in the news wherever you are, the natural world is struggling to survive.

Pollinator numbers are in decline, threatening the growth of all manner of plant life, including those that humans and many other species depend on for food.

The population of creepy-crawlies such as insects and spiders has dramatically decreased, having a 'knock-on' impact on small mammals and birds.

There is a vast and complex relationship between all living things on earth. We are understanding more about those dependencies, and we know that when we hear about yet another extinction of a species, the network of life becomes more at risk.

But what can we do about it?

This initiative sets out to encourage small changes in your own garden that will improve conditions for wildlife.

This leaflet has been prepared based on similar initiatives in other villages. Although the challenges to the environment are huge, we can all help, starting in our own gardens.

By sharing some simple ideas, we can help wildlife recover in population and diversity to levels seen in previous decades.

Nature is amazing and **will** thrive if it is given the opportunity – it just needs a bit of help, and we can have some fun at the same time!

We hope you will find inspiration in this leaflet to make small changes that will help our wildlife, whether you have a window box, a garden or a huge estate.

Between us we CAN make a difference.



www.wildweedon.org.uk



