

BBC

breathing places

Improve your local environment by planting a tree
or shrub to attract wildlife into your back garden

DO ONE THING

This month...

Plant a tree to attract wildlife

Every mature tree has a legacy to be proud of, so why
not give a gift to future generations by planting a new
shrub or tree in your garden? It will also help to attract
some wonderful native wildlife to your garden.



SO YOU WANT TO ATTRACT:



*HOUSE SPARROWS

The familiar cheeky brown
bird has disappeared in
many areas over the last few
years, due, it is thought, to a
decline in insects.

What do you plant?

The silver birch a small, fast
growing short-lived tree is
known to feed 334 species
of insects.

What else will it attract?

Dead or decaying birches
are a home for nesting birds
and different fungi.



*BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are a beautiful
visitor to any summer
garden. We have around
60 varieties of butterflies in
the UK, 22 of which flutter
around our gardens.

What do you plant?

Buddleia, known as the
butterfly bush, originates
from China. Its seeds are
easily carried by the breeze.

What else will it attract?

Bumblebees, bullfinches
and hoverflies love buddleia.



*MICE

Mice are generally
considered a pest as they
can bring disease and may
invade the house in search
of food. However, a mice
population can also attract
Tawny owls to your garden.

What do you plant?

Good old bramble, with its
hooked thorns, will provide
shelter and food for mice.

What else will it attract?

Insects, moths, spiders,
birds, wasps and even foxes.



*STARLINGS

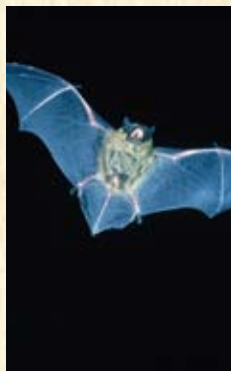
Once abundant, starlings
are now on the conservation
Red List as the breeding
population has plummeted
by more than 50 percent
in 25 years.

What do you plant?

Starlings feast on the crab
apple's colourful fruits.

What else will it attract?

The crab apple can be home
to more than 90 insect
species, while the blossom
will attract bees in spring.



*BATS

The most frequent garden
visitor of our 16 species of
bat is the pipistrelle. It can
munch 3,000 gnats and
midges every night.

What do you plant?

Willow trees support a huge
amount of moths and are a
favourite for over 90 species
of caterpillar, which are all
high on the menus for bats.

What else will it attract?

The insects will also make it
a feeding place for birds.



*HEDGEHOGS

If you want to give our
prickly friend a helping hand
this time next year, plant
a shrub that will provide
shelter as its leaves fall.

What do you plant?

The prickly, glossy leaves of
the evergreen holly bush are
a haven for wildlife.

What else will it attract?

Holly blue caterpillars find
holly buds a tantalising treat
while redwings and song
thrushes eat the berries.

BBC Breathing Places is launching a year of wild
action and we want you to get involved. Over the
coming year thousands of people will be helping to
transform your local area into a haven for wildlife.
Get involved today.

Visit www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces



For more information about
wildlife gardening why not
register for the RSPB's Homes
for Wildlife project?
Go to www.rspb.org.uk/hfw