

Creature Features

For overwintering wildlife in your garden



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

When winter arrives nature shuts down. More visible garden wildlife such as hedgehogs, newts, frogs and butterflies need to find somewhere to spend the winter. They're not alone - really useful

minibeasts like hoverflies, lacewings, ladybirds and other predatory beetles, spiders and solitary wasps need to find winter retreats too. Fortunately it's easy to make

artificial lodgings for all of these creatures - for every season. What's more, most of these special features can be made from household odds and ends...this factsheet shows you how.

Creature Feature

Creature

You will need

How?

Block of wood



Various minibeasts, solitary bee, mason bee, solitary wasp, beetles, spiders, ladybirds.

Block of wood, log, fencepost, brick, wall. (drill bit 5-10mm diameter).

Drill holes 90mm deep into logs, wood blocks, fence posts, walls, bricks



Stick case

as above



180mm long cylindrical container with top taken off (eg drainpipe, cleaned paint can, catering tin), straws or bamboo canes 5-8mm diameter, polystyrene or other material to seal one end of straw/cane, sticky tape.

Seal one end with bung (polystyrene blobs are excellent); tape sticks into place.

Hang in sunny position; attach to trunks and fences at various heights.

Lacewing chamber

Green lacewing (*Chrysoperla carnea*)
Tip: lacewings are attracted to house lights - so install the bottle chamber near house.



Plastic bottle (1 or 2 litre size is perfect) with top. Roll of corrugated cardboard 80-100cm long. Wire, scissors

Cut bottom off bottle; roll card and insert; fix with wire so bottle covers card with 5cm overhang. Hang in dense foliage, preferably by mid August.



Bumble bee hibernation chamber

Queen bumble bees (various species)

Earthenware flowerpot (9-10cm depth), short length (2-3cm) of old hosepipe 25mm wide, loose earth, trowel

Queen bees hibernate in chambers dug in loose soil; fill pot with loose earth and bury so that hole shows; attach hose if you want to bury it completely (cool north facing bank).

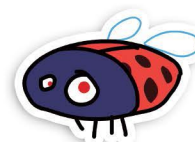


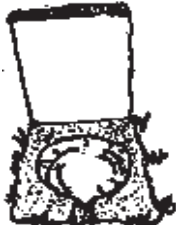



Ladybird and Lepidoptera lodges

Ladybirds (7, 10, 11, 14, spot) Butterfly pupae (esp. browns)

Hollow stems (esp. of thistle, teasel, fennel, angelica,) leaf litter, grassy tussock, loose bark, plant debris, dead dry foliage, standing dead grass, general 'wild corner' in garden.

Cut stalks at different levels from ground to 2m: leave wild corner especially tall grass for butterflies.



Creature Feature	Creature	You will need	How?	
Frog lodge	Frog Newts Other amphibians	Paving stone in grassy area such as lawn, trowel.	Dig chamber 3-4cm deep and sloping entrance trench under paving stone. Tip: more successful in grassy areas i.e.lawn.	
Earwig chamber	Earwig	Earthenware pot (9-10cm depth), straw, pets' bedding bamboo pole(50cm) cork or bung.	Fill pot with straw/bedding and put bung in drainage hole; put inverted pot on pole. Used in summer; not known if used in winter as earwigs usually hibernate underground.	
Logpile	Frog Newts Hedgehogs Butterflies Common Lizard Slow worm Beetles	Old logs, various sizes from various species; also stones, old bricks; gloves.	In shady corner, pile up higgledy-piggledy. Tip: try different sizes and species of wood; leave bark on if possible.	
Toad pot	Toad Frog Newts	Earthenware flowerpot (9-10cm depth) or half brick with gutter	Place in shady undisturbed area (below hedge, behind compost heap). Option: cover with leaves.	
Hedgehog hibernaculum	Hedgehog	Wooden box, leaves, straw or other pets' bedding, logs and stones, garden debris.	Place in a quiet corner Cover with a pile of logs, and stones, twigs, leaves and debris	
Hedgehog Hibernaculum Alternative	Hedgehog	Wooden board at least 75 x 75cm, leaves, straw, or other pets' bedding. Tip: Hedgehogs need leaves to make up winter nests.	Lean board against shed wall, leave bedding and leaves underneath.	
Ivy cutting	Butterflies (esp. holly blue)	Mature ivy (with round-lobed leaves, flowers and berries), secateurs, medium flowerpot, peat-free compost, trellis, tree, fence, hedge to climb	Take cutting from mature foliage (this will grow more bushy and will not spread so much). Tip: Try training up trellis 10cm from wall/fence; remember that ivy prefers shade. Mature ivy is great for insects and birds all year round.	

see our factsheet "Furry Furniture" for details about building a deluxe wooden hedgehog box