

## 2.8 Wildlife garden - **DOUBLE** point activity

Any time

### What it's about

A complete makeover of part of a garden, or other outdoor space, so that it is of maximum benefit to wildlife. This is a big project, incorporating several, perhaps all, of the previous activities in this section. It needs careful planning, and as much help as you can get!

### What do I need?

It depends what you decide to do.

### What do I do?

- Find a suitable site to make over. If your own garden isn't suitable, then what about part of the school grounds? Alternatively, ask around to see if any of your friends or neighbours would allow you to work on part of their garden. always make sure you have permission and that your parents or guardians know where you are.
- Make a map of the area, marking on it all the features that are already there such as grass/lawn, trees, walls, fences, paths and paved areas.
- Think how every part of your area could be improved for wildlife. Use the ideas earlier in this section. Also think about:
  - Plants with interesting seedheads, eg teasels, thistles, burdock, sunflowers. **These are good for:** goldfinches, earwigs, and lots of other insects
  - Planting a hedge. It is best to do this in winter. Use a mixture of native shrubs such as blackthorn, hawthorn, dogwood, guelder rose, hazel and spindle, dog rose and honeysuckle. **This is good for:** blackbirds and robins to nest in, hedgehogs
  - Planting a meadow. It is best to do this in spring. You can plant grasses and flowers such as buttercups, scabious, knapweed. **This is good for:** butterflies such as meadow browns and gatekeepers, grasshoppers, crickets, and many more.
  - Make a compost heap (see Section 3.4).
  - If you haven't space for a pond, then at least provide some water for birds to drink from and bathe in. You could sink a barrel into the ground, or use a plant pot saucer, lid, or similar shallow container.
  - Avoid using pesticides in your garden. Most pesticides kill nearly all insects.

- Mark your plans on the map.
- Decide what you will need to buy, or otherwise get hold of. Decide how much work is involved in each aspect, and who can help you. Make a plan of action.
- Get to work!

### What to send us

Tell us where and when you did your garden makeover and how you got on. If possible, send 'before' and 'after' photographs.

### Further information

- This book may provide useful information *How to make a wildlife garden* by Chris Baines
- Emorsgate Seeds are specialist growers of British wild flower and wild grass seeds. Contact them at Limes Farm, Tilney All Saints, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE34 4R
- John Shipton Bulbs are specialists in native bulbs and plants. Contact them at Y Felin, Henllan Amgoed, Whitland, Carmarthenshire SA34 0SL

### Planting seedlings

