

Creating a wildlife friendly garden

There are several things we can do, to make our gardens more wildlife friendly...

Birds

- ◆ Plant flowering trees that are native to the area, or at least plant natives that will attract birds.
- ◆ Plant dense and prickly shrubs for birds to nest in.
- ◆ Include water features and bird baths, keeping in mind that small birds don't like the water to be too deep.
- ◆ Include bird feeders, but if you do, make sure there is never any wet seed left out, as mouldy grain will quickly kill birds.



Butterflies

- ◆ Plant butterfly attracting shrubs.
- ◆ Nectar producing plants provide food for adult butterflies.
- ◆ Food plants provide a place where female butterflies can lay eggs, and then provide a food source for newly hatched larvae (caterpillars) to feed on.



Possums

- ◆ Install some possum boxes in your trees if you don't already have trees with hollows in your garden.
- ◆ Remember, possums will be attracted to fruit trees and fallen fruit.



Bats

- ◆ Install some bat boxes in your trees for microbats.
- ◆ The micro bats are wonderful insect catchers, but remember not to handle them unless you've been vaccinated against the bat Lyssavirus.



Reptiles

- ◆ Include some flat rocks in your planting scheme so that lizards can hide under them or sun themselves on.
- ◆ Remember, one of the favourite foods of the blue tongue lizard is snails. Red belly black snakes are also quite partial to them!



Other tips

- ◆ Include well mulched areas encourage worms which, in turn, will encourage birds, lizards and antechinus.
- ◆ The antechinus and bandicoot both love to dig for grubs, and a nicely mulched area is very appealing.
- ◆ Deter wallabies, kangaroos and possums from your prize roses, with a good strong spray of Charlie Carp.

Threats

- ◆ Minimise your use of insecticides as they pose a problem for all our wildlife. The less you use, the more you will find natural predators doing the work for you.
- ◆ Both insecticides and fungicides are best used later in the evening, or very early in the morning. Once the bees are out and about, it is too late!!
- ◆ Exclude cats and dogs from the garden at night by securing them, especially cats as they love to catch gliders and antechinus.
- ◆ Dogs are a problem if they chase native wildlife, as they often won't let anything strange into their territory.

