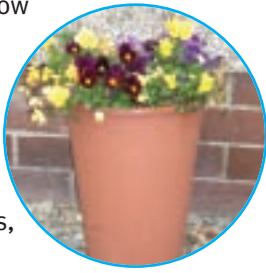


No Garden? No Problem!

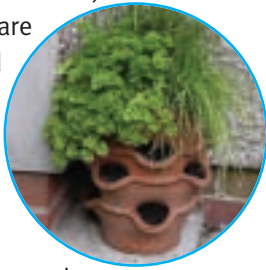
If you don't have a large garden or even any garden at all, you can still do your bit for wildlife in whatever space you have. Be creative and have fun – every little action counts! Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Window boxes, tubs and containers

Planting up window boxes, tubs and containers is a simple way of brightening up your window ledges and patios, providing a food



source for insects and the birds that feed on them. Use peat free compost to fill up the containers and add a mulching layer to retain moisture, such as bark chips. If you want to plant flowers, use species that are rich in nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies such as crocus and primroses. You could plant herbs like lavender and thyme which are great for butterflies, bees and hoverflies and have calming scents. You will need to water the window boxes and tubs regularly to prevent drying out.



Trellis

If you have a backyard or free wall space, plant climbing plants in containers with a trellis attached. Make sure the container or pot is free draining (place broken pots or bricks in the bottom with peat free compost on top). Attach the trellis to the wall and plant the climbers in the pot. Use climbers such as ivy to provide cover



ivy on trellis

for birds and insects, honeysuckle or clematis to provide nectar and berries for butterflies, bees and birds. Containers need watered regularly and the climbing plants should be cut back each year to encourage new growth.

Green roofs

Why not try a green roof? A green roof or living roof can provide a whole garden on top of your house or garden shed. Depending on the pitch of your roof and its construction, you could potentially build a shallow garden on top with a wide selection of flowering plants and shrubs. This is a relatively new concept in UK and Ireland although many people are experimenting with it. As well as having obvious benefits for wildlife and biodiversity, it looks great and contributes to our health and well being. See www.livingroofs.org for more details.

Hanging baskets

These mini-gardens are excellent for insects and can be hung in any space. Use a partly enclosed basket with holes in the side that doesn't require lining. By using peat free compost in your basket you are helping to conserve our peat bogs, a threatened and important local habitat.



Hanging Basket

Use trailing plants such as ivy and nasturtiums which provide all year round food and shelter for insects. Use open, simple flowers to give easy access to nectar for bees and butterflies. Water your baskets regularly and in the evening to save water.

No Garden? No Problem!

Window bird feeders and bird baths

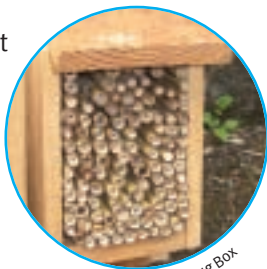
If you have no trees or space for free standing feeders you can use window bird feeders or bird feeders on hanging baskets to attract birds. Use feeders with suction pads to attach directly to your window. You can secure brackets to your walls and hang feeders or fat balls. If you have hooks for hanging baskets, use these in the winter months when your baskets are down. Or rub seed and fat mix onto your windowsills or into crevices on walls for a simple bird feeder. Birds need water for drinking and bathing in all year round so if you have limited space, use hanging baths that attach to wall brackets or a free standing design for balconies. Keep your bird baths in the shade so they don't dry up and top them up with clean fresh water regularly. Clean them every month to keep them free from disease.



Bird Bath

Insect hotel

Create an insect hotel using wooden pallets, twigs, sticks, pots filled with bamboo canes and corrugated cardboard, slate tiles and hay and place in your backyard. If you only have limited space, you can create smaller ones that attach to your window boxes or walls. Be as creative as you like and you will end up with a very interesting garden feature and talking point.



Bug Box



Insect Hotel



Pond in a Bucket

Artificial insect homes provide the small intricate spaces that mini-beasts prefer. You can create different homes for different insects – ladybirds prefer dead wood for hibernation, whereas lacewings like a chambered box for resting. Remember to place your insect hotel in a sunny, well-sheltered spot.

Bird boxes and Bat boxes

Bird boxes and bat boxes are perfect for houses with no gardens. By attaching bird boxes or bat boxes to your walls, you are providing a secure and welcome nesting site for birds and bats.



Bird Box

Please see UWT Homes for Wildlife guide for additional details.

Pond in a Bucket

If you have limited space, a half barrel lined with polythene makes a great home for wet-loving plants. This mini pond will be home to many pond invertebrates - you'll be surprised how quickly wildlife will make it their home. With little effort and minimum cost you can get all the enjoyment of a pond, and you can even move it around your backyard!

You can see there are any number of ways you can make space for nature even if you have limited space in the garden or even no garden at all! By putting up nest boxes, planting up tubs and hanging baskets, or even creating a pond in a bucket you can make any space a haven for wildlife.

You can download more Make Space for Nature information guides from our website www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org or contact us on 028 44830282 or email info@ulsterwildlifetrust.org.