

YOUR GUIDE TO A
WILD
WILD
WILD
WEEKENDER

28 April – 1 May

SAVE OUR
WILD ISLES

Working together
to protect and
restore UK nature.





GO WILD FOR NATURE

In this guide you'll find three simple and fun ways you can transform any outdoor area into a thriving haven for wildlife – planting, sowing seeds or creating mini-meadows.

Whether you have a garden, a balcony or a community space, you can make a genuine, positive impact for the nature on your doorstep.

Our nature is in crisis. Shockingly, the UK is in the bottom 10% of countries globally when it comes to the nature we have left. By taking part in the Wild Weekender **28th April – 1st May**, you're helping it to recover.



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GROWING PLANTS

● Super easy ● Fun with children

Why plants?

Plants are the foundation of a nature-rich world and have instant impact for local wildlife.

Choose wildlife-friendly plants. We've got some suggestions below to help. You can get them in a garden centre, online or from a neighbour. Find out more [here](#) »

- Lavender
- Hardy geraniums
- Allium
- Heuchera
- Helenium
- Eryngium
- Cirsium rivulare
- Catmint
- Lamb's-ear
- Ice plant
- Verbena bonariensis

Fancy using entirely native plants? Try:

- Betony
- Common Foxglove
- Nettle-leaved Bellflower
- Greater Knapweed
- Common Columbine
- Greater Mullein

If you are going to make a wild space on a balcony or patio, get pots or containers with holes in the bottom for drainage. Fill with peat-free compost.



GROWING PLANTS

Taking part

Planting is simple, fun and takes a few minutes per plant:

1. Choose your location – either in the ground or a large pot with peat-free compost
2. Dig a hole
3. Carefully remove its original pot and place in the hole
4. Gently push soil or compost around the plant
5. Water your plant
6. Reuse or recycle the original pot

Top tip:

Did you know that using peat-free compost will protect our precious peatland habitats?

SOWING SEEDS

● Test your green fingers ● Cost-effective

Why seeds?

This is the best way to grow lots of plants that attract wildlife, without spending a lot.

Growing wildlife-friendly plants from seed can make a big difference. We've got great suggestions [here](#) » of seeds that are quick, easy and perfect for nature.

Need some seeds? Ask what's available in your local community, search for free seeds online or shop at [the National Trust](#) » and [the RSPB](#) »

Taking part

It takes around an hour to sow like a pro. Here's how to do it:

- 1. Pick a sunny spot.**
- 2. If growing in the ground:** Weed and lightly rake the soil surface.
- 3. If growing in pots:** Make sure they've got drainage holes and fill with peat-free compost.
- 4. Scatter your seeds:** Make sure you spread them evenly accordingly to packet instructions.
- 5. Lightly press the seeds.** If in pots, cover the seeds with a thin layer of compost. If in the ground, lightly rake the soil to cover the seeds.
- 6. Water your seeds** and watch them grow and enjoy the wildlife that comes to visit!



Top tip:

Save money by asking your local community for seeds, just like Maggie in South Wales – watch her community in action [here](#) »



MAKING MEADOWS

● Not too tricky ● Gardens and parks

Why meadows?

Longer grass with wildflowers creates a bountiful jungle where minibeasts can mingle, birds can feed, and wildlife can travel safely.

To sow a mini-meadow, get a pack of meadow seeds and prepare the area (you'll need a spade or fork). Or get a large container and fill with peat-free compost or soil. If you have a lawn already, no prep needed.

Find out how to prepare the ground for seeds [here](#) »

Taking part

If you're sowing a mini-meadow, scatter your seeds thinly over the area you've prepared. If you have an area of grass already, let it grow. In late summer mow pathways through it so you can move around the space and see more of your new wild neighbours. After summer, mow the lawn a couple of times until late autumn.

Speak up for nature:

Get your local council to cut grassy areas and verges less often. It will allow flowers to bloom, provide food for pollinators, let hedgehogs hide and much more. Find out how you can work with your local authority [here](#) »



PLANTING PLACARDS

- Super easy
- Fun with children

Why placards?

We'd love you to tell the world what you're doing, so why not create a little sign saying #MyWildSpace.

Instructions

Use whatever you can recycle - an old piece of wood would be perfect! Anchor it into the ground or tie to a fencepost, whatever works for you, but make sure every passer-by can see it and be inspired.



#MyWildSpace

Learn how
to attract
wildlife
with water
here »

GO WILD WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

As nature is being pushed out of our neighbourhoods, it's time we take action. There are lots of ways to get your community involved – get started with these ideas [here](#) »

Learn how
to build a
bee hotel
here »



Share a photo of your
wilder space using the
hashtag #MyWildSpace

WILD CHAMPIONS

Just think of what you could achieve with your whole neighbourhood. If you want some tips to set up a local group and get in touch with other groups, take a look [here](#) »



Nature on
Your Doorstep

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This guide has been made possible by support from Barratt Developments PLC, who is helping the RSPB to get gardens, balconies and other outdoor spaces blooming and buzzing with life through the Nature on Your Doorstep Project.