

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN YOUR OWN GARDEN

- Step back – allow natural processes to take control
- Remove your weed problem at one fell swoop – reclassify them as wildflowers! (Native wildflowers are specifically designed for our native insects.)
- Make a wildlife pond with a beach or low stones where wildlife can get out. Please don't keep fish in it, as they will eat the other wildlife.
- Don't use chemicals – they poison the soil and pollinators, which we all depend on. If you use slug pellets you end up killing hedgehogs and anything else that eats slugs.
- Buy peat free compost – peat bogs store carbon and prevent flooding.
- Make your own compost.
- Practice “No Dig” gardening – just pile organic matter on top and let the worms do the rest. Disturb soil as little as possible – don't disrupt the existing fungal/plant networks.
- Buy plants grown organically and without the use of peat (one stockist – Courtyard Planters, Otley).
- Plant native species where possible, or use plants that have simple flowers.
- Leave an area of grass to grow long, and cut it in September. Sow with Yellow rattle and put in perennial wildflowers.
- Leave a pile of logs to rot down, for a myriad of beetles and other invertebrates.
- Build an insect hotel with a mix of sticks and hollow stems rammed in a tube.
- Put up birdboxes & bat boxes.
- Cut a hole the side of a CD case in your fence both sides, or under your gate, to allow hedgehogs to pass through.
- Have a hedgehog house.
- Sink logs in the ground to rot for beetles.
- Aim for a garden of “benign neglect” – nature isn't tidy.
- Lobby local council to leave verges unmown and areas of public parks wild scrub.
- Join MANT!