

19/05/23

A message from Miss Carr;

Did you know;

UK gardens cover around 433,000 hectares of land. That's nearly three times the size of Greater London and more than two and half times the area of RSPB nature reserves. This means, the RSPB says, there is huge potential for us all to help nature at home.

Whether you have a garden, backyard or balcony, one way to attract pollinating insects and other wildlife is to fill your outdoors space with plants. [New home](#) builder David Wilson Homes, have collaborated with the UK's largest nature conservation charity, [the RSPB](#), to create a list of seven bird and pollinator-friendly plants you could add to your outdoor space. Here they are;

Marjoram, Verbena, Hardy geraniums, Cat mint, Lavender, Helenium, Foxglove digitalis

Remember – another way you can help is by allowing – even a small space – of grass to grow wild **#nomow!**

Also!; Due to building and housing estates in the wider countryside, ponds are disappearing. One third of ponds are thought to have disappeared in the last fifty years or so. This has had an enormous effect on wildlife, particularly amphibians. Frogs, toads and newts are dependent on ponds to breed; if ponds disappear, so do they! Some research I read recently noted that if every household had a even a small pond-like area in their outdoor space, this could support our amphibians. There are a huge number of ways to easily install a small support pond in any space and on any budget. Remember;

- Rain water is key for mini nature ponds- don't use your tap water.

-Fish – though lovely – will eat frogspawn and newt eggs. They also require much care and a proper pond instalment – so don't add them unless you are building a specific fish pond.

-You don't need lots of expensive resources to build a mini natural pond – even an old washing up bowl or sink will do. There are many mini **natural pond** project ideas online and **Chris Packham** is a huge amphibian ambassador. If you look him up, he has got lots of tips on how you can help in your outdoor space.

On Twitter he shared this link to a wonderful blog which is full of information about wildlife decline and what is being done to help. This particular link is from lockdown and tells us how we can support these creatures so we don't lose them;

<https://npsecondnature.com/2021/02/12/lockdown-wildlife-gardening-for-amphibians-and-reptiles-by-paul-sterry/?blogsub=confirming#subscribe-blog>

Finally – We have a little Wishlist for some Forest School resources for our loose parts collection. So, if you are spring cleaning and want rid of anything its worth asking if we can use it at Forest School – because odds are we can, you would be surprised! In particular we are currently looking for any old tires – including bike ones, old material – including sheets, blankets, old tents etc., and any old pots, pans, utensils.

Many thanks and Happy wilding! Please do share any of your wildlife projects! – Miss Carr