

The Wildlife Garden Project

Mini Guide to Helping Hedgehogs

Seen anything prickly snuffling around your hedge recently? Hedgehogs are having a hard time at present because there are fewer hedges and less undergrowth for them to move around in undetected. The hogs need your help! Firstly you need to make sure hedgehogs can get into your garden. Talk to your neighbours about creating a wildlife corridor by putting 15cm holes in your fences so hedgehogs can squeeze between gardens easily.



Photo by Mark Fletcher



Keep a pile of leaves in the corner near a hole in the fence or by a hedge for hogs to forage and hide in. Try building a home for your hedgehog - it should be dry and big enough for them to have a nice snugly bed inside. Take a look at this one we made on the left for inspiration! If you have a pond, make sure it has shallow edges so if your hedgehog accidentally goes for a swim it can easily get out again.

Hedgehogs love slugs and snails for their dinner but when the weather is dry they can be hard to find. You can help by leaving out a tray of mealworms or some dog food, but not too much or they'll turn into hedgepigs! It's a good idea to put the food into a hedgehog house to avoid the local cat population getting to it first! Avoid using slug pellets in your garden as it can give hedgehogs a tummy ache. After all, your new hedgehog friends are a natural pest controller!

Hedgehogs sometimes use bonfires as hiding places if they have been there a while. Always move your bonfire before lighting to avoid any disasters.

The Wildlife Garden Project is both a film and a website. We are transforming an ordinary garden into a haven for wildlife and making a film of the whole thing! Watch videos, get wildlife gardening tips, join our forum and get involved at www.wildlifegardenproject.com