



Wildlife Gardening in Winter

Winter is the time when we tidy our gardens and greenspaces ready for new growth in the spring. Striking a balance between maintaining the space to suit our needs and leaving areas wild to benefit nature can be difficult.

As the weather changes over the next few months, it's important not to clear and tidy too soon or too thoroughly. By working on a small section at a time you'll give wildlife a chance to move elsewhere and make a new home.

We've launched a Stag beetle awareness campaign to emphasise the importance of natural decay in our outdoor spaces. A rotting log pile can provide food and shelter for rare species, like the Stag beetle, and other creatures who love to make homes in undisturbed areas.

Have you seen a Stag Beetle?

They are known to be living in Cardiff so please let us know if you are lucky enough to spot one.

Female stag beetles lay their eggs underground near rotting/decaying wood.

Larvae hatch from the eggs and feed on the wood for 3 to 5 years until they grow into adults.





Stag Beetles are the biggest beetle in the UK but are rarely seen.

Dead plant matter provides a home for overwintering bugs and reptiles. Even after the first spring-like days, our wildlife is still taking refuge in untidy patches of our garden incase another cold spell hits.

After carefully clearing a space to plant new seeds and bulbs, think about the type of plants you choose. Are they wildlife friendly or native to Wales? Which areas of the space can be left untouched for longer? [You can visit this RHS resource for plant ideas.](#)



One of the easiest and cheapest things we can do is wait and see what grows. Many pollinator-friendly plants will pop up in our gardens if given the chance.

If you're not sure what's growing, there are several tools such as [Seek by iNaturalist](#) [iNaturalist](#) which can help identifying species by taking a photo.

Why not create a pond?

When it's dark and wet outside it seems an odd time to talk about the importance of providing water for wildlife, but this summer there was drought in Cardiff and across the UK. Winter is the best time to create or restore a pond as rain and cooler temperatures will help it establish quickly.

When choosing a site, a spot that's sunny in the morning and shaded in late afternoon is ideal. Creating a boggy area around your pond and planting bog garden plants will provide food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife.

The Cardiff Local Nature Partnership can offer community groups funding for projects which support nature including pond creation through the Community Project Fund.



Vision 21, a charity which supports people with learning disabilities, applied for funding to help restore a pond and create a new bog garden at the Sbectrwm Centre in Fairwater. We'll be providing them with new pond liners along with native pond and bog plants.

Planting for pollinators in schools



The Cardiff Local Nature Partnership is working with Buglife Cymru and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales to raise awareness of the importance of providing space for nature. Many schools around Cardiff have very little green space so we have been looking for opportunities to provide pollinator planting to brighten playgrounds and support pollinators.

We'd like to hear from you

If you have a community garden you'd like to make more wildlife friendly or wish to share any news about local nature projects, please get in touch with us by emailing Biodiversity.team@cardiff.gov.uk



If you'd like to join the Cardiff Local Nature Partnership mailing list and receive news and updates on local nature projects please email Biodiversity.team@cardiff.gov.uk

More information about wildlife in Cardiff can be found on the Outdoor Cardiff website

[Wildlife and Biodiversity - Outdoor Cardiff](#)