



Wildlife Gardening - Autumn Term

September

October

November & December

Birds

Clean out birdbaths and keep their water levels topped up.

Replenish birdfeeders. Avoid large chunks and peanuts as the breeding season is not over yet.

Keep bird feeders clean to prevent the spread of disease. Wash them in hot water and disinfectant and allow to dry.

Replenish birdfeeders. All feeds, including peanuts, are safe as the breeding season is now over.

Keep bird feeders clean to prevent the spread of disease. Wash them in hot water and disinfectant and allow to dry.

Hang birdfeeders.

Fill birdbaths and keep them clean and free of ice.



© Nigel Symington 2010 / SWT

Pond

Dig a new wildlife pond before the ground gets too hard from frost. Allow it to fill naturally with winter rainwater.

Clear out and compost silt if old ponds are too shallow. Leave some silt as it contains eggs and larvae. Be careful not to damage the pond liner.

Cut back reeds and other pond plants on a rotational basis. Be ruthless – they will grow back! Ideally at least 1/3 of the pond should be open water. Swish the vegetation in the water before removing it from the pond to remove as many creatures as possible. Leave it on the side for a few hours before composting.

Try to keep the pond well-oxygenated, ensuring there are plenty of underwater plants and that light can get into the pond.

Float a tennis ball on the surface to prevent the pond freezing over. This can help air-breathing creatures (e.g., Smooth Newts); it will also give birds somewhere to drink.

Brush away any snow, if safe, to let light into the pond.



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Trees Hedgerow Shrubs	 <p>© Alan Price Gatehouse Studios / SWT</p>	 <p>© Filma Dyer / SWT</p>	<p>Leave some berries on plants such as holly – they are food for wildlife.</p> <p>Coppice hazels and coppice or pollard other suitable trees.</p> <p>Plant new trees, hedgerows and shrubs.</p>
Flowers	<p>Leave some seed heads standing, rather than cutting them back, to provide food and shelter for wildlife.</p>	<p>Give meadows a final cut before the winter, aiming for 7cm height. Let the clippings lie for a couple of days before raking to allow any wildlife to crawl back into the sward.</p>	<p>Leave perennials un-cut for as long as possible – they provide food and shelter for wildlife.</p>
Wildlife homes	 <p>© Anna Marie Kyriacou / SWT</p>	<p>Make a leaf pile for hibernating mammals and ground-feeding birds overwintering in the UK.</p> <p>Build a hedgehog hibernation box.</p> <p>If bird boxes are empty, clean them out to get rid of any mites. They will be ready for next year's breeding season and can also be used for roosting over the winter.</p>	<p>Build a compost heap.</p> <p>Create overwintering sites for a range of insects, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.</p>  <p>© Elli Saunders / SWT</p>



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