



Gardens for Wildlife

Most people enjoy watching wild birds and other interesting native animals around their house or nature parks. If you are one of them, there are many things you can do to have the wildlife you like in your garden. Fruit-producing plants will attract a great variety of birds, lizards and other species to your garden. Native plants are a healthy alternative to feeding food to wildlife.

What to do to attract wildlife:

- Choose native plants as they provide food and shelter for wildlife. Not only they look great but they are readily available, adapted to their environment, sturdy and water wise.
- Plant vegetation at all levels - groundcovers, shrubs and trees - they give habitat to many animals. Thickest shrubs will attract fairy-wrens, finches, spinebills and silvereyes. Native trees like Eucalyptus Euky Dwarf will give shelter/nesting sites for large birds.
- Provide a variety in colour, texture and density of plantings to support a diverse range of native fauna. Banksias, Callistemons, Grevilleas and Correas will attract honeyeaters.
- Select plants that do not require pesticides and keep weeds under control. Reduce the size of your lawn and convert lawn areas to garden beds.
- Keep trees with hollows as many native birds nest in these. Rocks, rotten logs and branches can give protection for reptiles like Blue-Tongue lizards, frogs and echidnas.
- Have a regular water supply such as a bird bath or a pond.
- Become involved in local wildlife/conservation/environment groups in your area to promote wildlife and reduce the destruction of their natural habitat.

Do not:

- Have toxic plants, such as azalea or hydrangea, or plants classified as weeds.
- Use chemical fertilisers or pesticides as there are other animal-friendly, natural alternatives.
- Leave dog/cat food outside as it may attract unwanted visitors like rats, mice or non-native species like Indian Mynas.
- Tidy up your garden too much as you will remove micro-habitat for many little creatures. Leaf litter/mulch is habitat for lizards, frogs, insects and ground birds. It helps retain moisture in the soil.

Did you know?

Small insect-eating birds have been most affected by urbanisation in Australia. Only 15% of birds in cities weigh less than 15g compare to 40% in native bushland. Larger birds dominate in cities, with 30% of species in the 80g to 200g weight range; compared to 10% in bushlands.

For more information on plants for wildlife follow the links:

Australian native plants society <http://anpsa.org.au/>

<http://www.logan.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/wildlife/wildlife-friendly-backyards>

For more information or advice contact ACT Wildlife Inc. on **0432 300 033** or visit our website www.actwildlife.net

