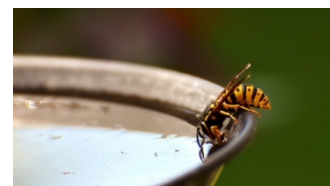


Wildlife S.O.S

How can we support our wildlife friends this summer? To find out more come along to our workshop on 31 August www.slbi.org.uk/events.

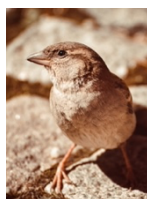
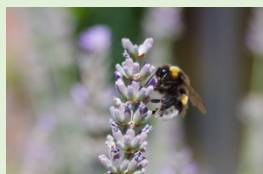


Feeding the birds:

Birds need our help in the summer months. Following the spring and summer breeding season, there are more bird mouths that need feeding. An easy way to do this is to core an apple, thread some string through and use it to knot together two wooden skewers at the base (the birds rest on these). You can replace the apple core to make it more stable. Then pierce small holes in the surface of your apple and fill them with sunflower hearts, currants or dried mealworms. Delicious!



Herbs to attract useful insects: Herbs such as lavender, rosemary, sage, thyme, oregano and mint will attract important pollinators (such as bees and butterflies) and birds into your garden. The flowers are a great source of pollen and nectar and they smell lovely to us too.



Pollinator Palaces for shade & rest:

You can make a mini palace for garden insects to rest and escape the heat using simple materials collected from around the house. Take a recycled tin can or yogurt pot, thread some string through it by drilling or making a hole in the bottom, then fill it with corrugated cardboard, flattened loo rolls, paper straws, hollow wooden tubes, shredded paper padding or any similar natural materials. You could also use discarded bark, sticks, fallen leaves, pine needles or moss. Hang your insect palace in a sheltered, shady place where it won't get wet, and tilt it slightly downwards so it stays dry and rain can't run inside.



Thirsty street trees: When new street trees are planted, they are provided with a watering tube that goes down to their roots. During hot periods try to give them 20 litres of water (once or twice a week) by pouring it directly into the tube and gently onto the soil at its base. Give the water time to be absorbed otherwise it will run off along the pavement and be wasted.



Watering stations: In the very hot, dry months it can be hard for insects and birds to find water. You can easily make a simple watering station by filling an old container with a variety of foraged natural materials such as sticks, stones, broken pots, pinecones and bark. Don't make the water too deep or the insects could fall in and drown. The materials you add will provide a safe platform for them to reach the water without falling in. Find a cool, protected spot for your watering station and then watch and wait to see who pops by for a drink. Why not make more than one?

