

## Greener Belstone: Wildlife Garden Day Tips



**Water saucer, pond and bird bath:** Water provided at different heights and types maximises value e.g. pond (habitat); bird bath (raised platform helps birds to feel safer to bathe); fresh-water ground level (shallow bowl/saucer) for drinking source (e.g. hedgehogs).



**Night scent:** Our Moths need help too! Night-time lighting in the garden is very detrimental to their lifecycles, try to reduce where possible. Help them by planting evening scented plants for a good nectar source such as: Honeysuckle, Wysteria, Night Scented Phlox, and Evening Primrose.



**Beastie feasts with Logs:** Mixed native hard/soft wood logs stacked in both a shady & a sunny corner; dig some just below ground too. The sun & shade mix gives different habitats and a host of homes - birds will peck in the bark for a snack! A mix of wood is the key to max value.



**Bird homes:** spread various boxes around your garden, try trees, garages and/or a brick shed or outhouses (see image with nesting brick built in). Ideally wooden boxes tend to be used if they are not facing south and covered in climbing foliage (protection from predators).



**Ramble on!** Try rambling roses over sheds, oil tanks & up walls! They provide much joy in summer; open flower varieties are a welcome source of nectar. Try Rosa Seagull ideal for shade and Rambling Rector for sun, both bee-friendly and vigorous growers even in Belstone! Don't forget the humble Ivy too, this is often overlooked yet a vital source of late nectar.



**Hardy easy to grow evergreen shrubs for colour & nectar, top picks:** Erysimum Bowles Mauve; Hebe Mid-Summer Beauty; Lavender Gros Bleu; Escallonia Apple Blossom; Ceanothus; Ilex Aquifolium JC Van Tol (Holly heavily-berried - birds love), Mahonia Aquifolium.



**Easy summer flowers for pots & planters (nectar rich & slug resistant):** Cosmos, Lobelia, snap-dragon (Antirrhinum), flowering herbs such as Mint, Chive, Oregano and Marjoram; Globe Thistle; Devils Bit Scabious; Salvia. Borage is a tall plant – a bee magnet edible flowers all summer!



**Mulch, soil and compost!** Look after your soil with plenty of mulch e.g. rotted leaves, wood chips. It'll suppress weeds and reduce watering. It will also provide homes to hosts of invertebrates and give the soil a welcome boost. Make your own compost, but if you have to buy – wool and bracken compost is great: [www.dalefootcomposts.co.uk/](http://www.dalefootcomposts.co.uk/)

**Wildflower meadow seed mix sources:** [www.Habitataid.co.uk](http://www.Habitataid.co.uk) ; [www.wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/](http://www.wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/) <https://shop.plantlife.org.uk/collections/wildflower-seeds>; [www.naturescape.co.uk](http://www.naturescape.co.uk)

**Olympic-park Meadow (long flower mix non-natives):** [www.dejager.co.uk/363/Pictorial-Meadow-Seed-Collections](http://www.dejager.co.uk/363/Pictorial-Meadow-Seed-Collections)