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City of Bayside

Overview recipe: Tips and hints for attracting Wildlife to your garden. Sheet 1/2

Look at your garden first. Before you remove vegetation observe where and how wildlife is using your garden. Consider keeping plants that are obvious food, habitat sources even exotics.

Look for neighborhood corridors, talk to neighbors. Tell your neighbors about your garden for wildlife plan. Walk around your neighborhood and check Google maps to look for plant corridors. Look for plants you may choose that can connect wildlife corridors. Observe wildlife and what they are doing in plants and in gardens.

The use of water in your garden. Provide fresh water. A bird bowls for birds. Shallow ground bowls for mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. Make sure any water bowls and features are maintained, cleaned and fresh water is constantly added. If you place stones or gravel in a birdbath you will also attract bees and other insects.

Plan for a section of wild in your garden. Leave at least a couple of small areas with a build-up of debris, litter. Leaves etc. great for insects and birds to forage.

Plan for your garden to be pesticide/insecticide and chemical free. Use natural products and remember pesticides kill insects and wildlife. The natural food chain in your garden will keep pests under control and remember co-planting with herbs and laying mulch to deal with weeds.

Mulch. Mulch constantly and mulch heavily. Lots of insect invertebrates will live under the mulch and help the soil and feed birds. Mulch keeps the weeds under control and holds water for the dryer times.

Do not rely totally on natives. Nectar eating birds and insects love some flowering exotic plants that can also provide color. Small nectar eaters and bees love the Budlea Butterfly Bush for example. When only exotic plants exist try planting equivalent numbers of local natives.

Think about all seasons flowering when you plant. Check the Bayside nursery for Winter flowering shrubs to provide food for pollinators and nectar eaters when food supply can be scarce.

Think about planting climbers. Check the Bayside nursery and discover what may be planted to climb walls and fences. Small birds can use established climbers for nesting and butterflies will be attracted to flowers.

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Overview recipe: Tips and hints for attracting Wildlife to your garden. Sheet 2/2

Plan to grow native grasses in suitable patches. Check the range available at the bayside nursery. They can be planted in clumps and consider them as borders/edges. Seed eating birds will be attracted.

If you have lawn or exotic grass, consider letting it grow in one area as this will attract butterflies to breed and attract seed eating birds.

Prune across your garden regularly. Pruned shrubs especially will thicken up and provide refuge and nesting opportunities for small birds. Across Spring and Summer check for nesting birds before pruning.

Provide nesting / roosting sites for Birds, mammals and insects. In our suburban neighborhoods natural nesting, resting and breeding sites for our native fauna are seriously compromised. Visit Friends of Native Wildlife inc at www.bayfonw.org.au for support and advice. Discover details to help your local native fauna. Bat boxes, bird and possum boxes can be made from plans or purchased. Make sure any help you provide is sited correctly. You may be able to acquire small hollow logs and site them for parrots/lorikeets. Remember to carefully and correctly monitor any installations in your garden.

Consider providing bird feeders in your garden. Decide which bird groups may benefit from a feeder. Remember if you attract carnivores you will compromise smaller birds. Site your feeder bowls / tables with consideration to shade, protection and water. Keep your feeder bowls / tables cleaned regularly. Keep your feeding supplement restricted in quantity and frequency birds can still forage naturally and never rely on your feeding. Avoid using bread and processed meats. Consider threats from cats and dogs and threat birds when planning any feeding.

Attract butterflies to your garden. Butterflies love fruit and sugar so consider putting out plates of damaged fruit or a liquid mix of 1 part sugar to 10 parts water. Visit the butterfly enclosure at Melbourne Zoo to see how they feed. Butterflies don't mind getting their feet wet.

Attract Frogs to your garden. A pond for frogs can also be attractive to birds and insects. Do remember frog eating birds may visit looking for a snack, so provide protection. Add fringing plants to ponds and rocks for reptiles, birds and insects to drink from. If you want to have fish in the

pond you will need native species such Blue - eyes and Rainbow Fish as they are frog friendly. If you want to include moving water investigate this addition as birds will especially be attracted and frogs and insects will love it.

More Information

<https://www.bayfonw.org.au/g4ws/tips>