



*The RHS and The Wildlife  
Trusts – encouraging wildlife  
into your garden*

## Wild About Gardens Newsletter August 2016



Gardens are vital for pollinators and it's easy for you to help them with the [Perfect for Pollinators lists](#). Currently, the RHS and the University of Bristol are investigating exactly which pollinator-friendly plants are being grown and where, and they are inviting gardeners to [join in the survey](#).

Urban gardens are especially important for wildlife, including bats, and a [recent study](#) shows that bats in urban areas prefer locations with natural features nearby. Soprano pipistrelles like lakes, rivers or urban woodland, while common pipistrelles go for places with lots of green space. Wherever your garden is, you can grow plants to encourage bats and [enter our photography competition](#).

As late summer fades into autumn, you may be thinking of mulching your garden. If you are going to use compost as a mulch, how about a [peat-free option](#). Peat comes from bogs which have taken thousands of years to form and are an important habitat for wildlife, so many people are now [making their own compost](#).

### Things to do

- Hold back on hedge trimming – there's still a chance birds may be nesting.

they don't eat you can collect, store and sow next year.

Build a mini-stone wall – it's just the kind of place that insects and small creatures can shelter in over winter.

More things to do in August.

## Things to look for



Flying Ants

It's already flying ant season, especially on warm days. Males and virgin queens are looking for a mate before they start their own colonies. The Royal Society of Biology has been tracking flying days for the past few years and want to hear from you if you see any flying ants.



Grasshopper

Long grass is a haven for crickets and grasshoppers - you'll hear them chirruping. Crickets rub their wings together, while grasshoppers rub their legs against their wings. You can tell them apart by their antennae – short and stubby in grasshoppers, longer and thinner in crickets.



Shrew

Shrews also love the shelter of long grass, and wild parts of the garden. Although rarely seen, you may hear their high-pitched squeaks. They eat every two to three hours because of their high metabolic rate, feasting on a variety of invertebrates, such as snails, slugs, beetles and worms.

More about what to look out for in August.

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