



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

Wild About Gardens Newsletter March 2017



Frogspawn is amassing in ponds around the country so it can be tempting to 'bring a jar home' for your own pond. However, be aware that you could introduce amphibian diseases to your pond, along with invasive weeds. Similarly, dumping garden and pond plants into the wild can cause problems.

To help raise awareness of the problem and what we can all do to help, [Invasive Non Native Species Week](#) is running again this year from 27th March – 2nd April. [Be Plant Wise](#) with invasive aquatic weeds or look for local conservation groups running 'balsam bashing' activities to combat [Himalayan balsam](#) – a pretty, bee-friendly annual but a complete thug when it comes to outcompeting native plants.

For spring pollinator planting ideas with less invasive habits, check out the [RHS lists of pollinator-friendly garden plants](#) and [wildflowers](#).

A date for your diary this month is 10 – 19 March when [British Science Week](#) will be helping organise events across the UK.

Things to do

- Make a hedgehog highway in your garden fence, not forgetting to talk to your neighbour first!
- Trim back herbaceous borders now nature is on the move. This will make way for new growth from below.
- Empty out compost heaps and use on the beds to increase soil fauna and keep down weeds.

More things to do in March.

Things to look for



Primroses are brightening up the bases of hedges with their lemon-yellow flowers, attracting the Bee Fly, a furry bumblebee mimic, among other spring pollinators.

Primrose



Butterflies such as [Red Admirals](#) and [Brimstones](#) are now active in gardens on warm days, and a sure sign that warmer weather is here at last. Along with [bees](#) they are important plant pollinators.

Butterfly



[Wood Pigeons](#) are now a common – if not always welcome - sight in many gardens, especially if caught plucking the succulent new buds and leaves from trees and shrubs such as lilac.

Wood Pigeon

More about what to look out for in [March](#).

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