

SMARTER shopper

Cheap and cheerful ways to attract wildlife to your garden this summer

SAVE MONEY on a wildlife-friendly garden

Affordable bee-friendly plants There are plenty of plants that attract bees to your garden, and you don't need to break the bank to fill up your flowerbeds. 'For a super effective, low cost and maintenance free "bee nectar filling station," I'd opt for either catmint or perennial wallflowers,' recommends Sean McMenemy, Director at Ark Wildlife. 'They can be planted in pots or directly in the ground, and they'll flower continuously from spring until autumn for many years.'

Make your own compost Reduce your wastage and garden spending by using your own compost, as Adam Johannes, known as The Compost Guy, advises. 'Pop uncooked food chopped into small pieces into a kitchen caddy so it decomposes quicker. You can even add plastic-free tea bags and coffee grounds.' Pick up an Addis 2.5-litre kitchen caddy with removeable inner bucket for £10 from Dunelm.

Put out fresh clean water Birds need clean water for drinking and bathing. Not only will this help them stay hydrated but it also keeps their feathers in good condition, too. Keep a dish of clean tap water out all year round or for something better suited to your garden design, install a bird bath.

Add a bug hotel Provide shelter to bees, bugs and butterflies visiting your garden with a bug hotel. Affordable to buy or even make yourself at home with the kids using pieces of wood, you'll be giving these important critters a warm welcome.



39% of the UK got more into gardening during the pandemic, and almost half (47%) of the UK plan to transform their gardens in 2021

Source: Rated People



YourHome Fab find

The RSPB has launched Nature on Your Doorstep, an online project designed to inspire everyone on how to turn their outdoor spaces into havens for wildlife – whether it be a private garden or a communal space. Here you can access how-to gardening guides, step-by-step videos, and an online community to ask questions to and share success stories. There's also a monthly newsletter to sign up to for seasonal tips and tricks. Head to rspb.org.uk/yourdoorstep to get started.



SMART SAVINGS

According to JDP, experts in drainage and water management, adding a Rainwater Harvesting tank to your property (starting from around £65 for a 150-litre model) allows you to replace your mains water usage with rainwater, saving around 45 per cent on water bills. You could use that spare change to buy a water feature that you and the birds can benefit from – we love the look of this Smart solar Genoa cascading water foundation, £99.99, from very.co.uk.



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