

## Creating a garden that attracts wildlife

The aim of a 'Garden for Wildlife' is to create habitat by providing food, shelter, nesting sites and safe areas to raise young. This largely involves the use of varied types of local native plant species, but also providing water, places to hide or find shelter, warm basking sites (e.g. rocks, logs) and nesting sites (natural or artificial).

To many people, creating a garden to attract wildlife might mean having a messy garden with rampant 'scraggy' native vegetation in an effort to recreate a mini-wilderness. This doesn't necessarily have to be the case. Your wildlife garden can be as formal or informal as you wish it to be.

You may wish to retain non-weedy, exotic plants you have in the garden, or keep a vegetable garden. How you create your 'Garden for Wildlife' is entirely your choice and can be a gradual process, as you become more familiar with native flora and fauna species and how to provide for them.



For many people, the focus of their garden is to attract birds. Other wildlife, such as insects, frogs, lizards and mammals can often be overlooked. Creating a diversity of habitat will provide for a much greater diversity of wildlife, and therefore valuable protection and enhancement of biodiversity in urban areas.

It is best to use local native plant species as they have adapted to the conditions of soil type, water availability and exposure that occur in your area. This will also attract the species of wildlife that are associated with the local plant types and habitat.

A great way to gain a sense of what you should plant and provide, is to take a walk in any remnant bushland park or reserve near where you live. This can be a great way to learn more about the natural flora and fauna in your area.

Seek the advice of your local native plant nursery as these often specialise in growing plants from seeds or cuttings sourced locally.

The Barung Landcare Native Plant Nursery, Maleny has a great range of local plants adapted to the climate and conditions of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

*Images: L Palm lily - Cordyline petiolaris  
R Dense foliage provides protection*

