

Landscaping ideas and wildlife habitat

Using either physical structures or landscape planting, you can create habitats to provide safe shelter, food sources and nesting sites that will attract a range of wildlife species to your garden.

When landscaping or creating garden wildlife habitat, try to source landscape materials 'sustainably'. Taking bushland rocks or logs for example, removes valuable wildlife habitat for many species in the wild, when in fact there are many easy alternatives.



Some examples are terracotta or plastic pots, old blocks of concrete or bits of pipe. These can create great shelters and nest sites for a range of species.



There is a wide range of artificial nesting boxes available that can also be attached to trees, poles or walls.

You can make artificial rocks by creating a bowl shaped depression in a pile of sand and pouring in concrete. Lay chicken wire over the concrete to reinforce it, pour more concrete to cover the wire and leave it to dry. When set, render the surface with portions of sand and pigment to create a natural look. A mossy look can be created by pouring old milk or potato liquid over the 'rock', collecting fruiting spores of moss or lichen and sprinkling them over the surface.

Leaf litter, twigs, fallen branches and logs left on the ground provide valuable habitat and shelter for spiders, beetles, worms, lizards and frogs, which in turn become valuable food for birds and larger animals. This material also provides great mulch for keeping weeds down, helping with soil moisture retention and providing a more constant soil temperature. Fungi, moss and lichen grow on fallen timber and help with the decaying process, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. Fungi are a valuable food source for many invertebrates and small mammals.

Lizard 'lounges' can be constructed from old timber or fence palings and stones, arranged to provide hides from predators and spots for sun baking.

A decorative graphic of various green leaves, including a fern frond and broad leaves, is positioned in the top left corner of the page.

Thickets of spiky sedges and native grasses provide areas for bandicoots to make day nests, from which they emerge in the twilight to feed on grubs in lawns and other soil organisms.

Consider the use of native plants for hedges or screening. There are many native plant species that can be used to create attractive hedges with the additional benefit of providing nest sites, shelter from predators, and food sources for a variety of wildlife species.

A native plant hedge can be clipped to create a neat and uniform screen to the height and size you wish.

