



RHS Gardening for Wildlife Award – Criteria, 2024

Nature is in crisis, across the UK species and their habitats are in severe decline. Groups can help reverse this destruction in gardens and community green spaces around the country, by protecting and improving conditions for pollinators and other wildlife.

Every single outdoor space can be an important habitat for wildlife; and gardening in a nature-friendly way does not mean compromising on quality. This award recognises the work groups are doing to make the spaces they care for wildlife-friendly.

Assessment Key

Each entry assessed on its own merits, with no medal levels awarded. The scores are to help each Region/Nation select a winner for each category, and to help the RHS select an overall winner from across the UK. The scores will not be shared with groups.

Please score against each aspect, with a mark out of 5, using the following key.	
• 0	Criteria not met;
• 2	Criteria somewhat met, but with significant scope for improvement;
• 3	Criteria well met, but with some scope for improvement;
• 4	Criteria very well met, with only small scope for improvement;
• 5	Criteria fully met.
Please note any examples given are for illustration only, and groups might meet the criteria in many other ways.	

Gardening for Wildlife Award Criteria & Score Card

Section A: Planting & Habitats – 40% of marks, out of 20	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating, restoring or maintaining appropriate habitats to support wildlife, e.g. specific features such as ponds or ‘dead’ hedges, or the connection of several habitats to make ‘wildlife corridors’ or ‘pollinator pathways.’ 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selecting an abundant and diverse range of plant-species to attract a greater variety of insects and wildlife, e.g. choosing a range of shapes, colours, varieties, sizes and fragrances that flower and fruit throughout the year. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and targeting wildlife species appropriate to the local area, including encouraging and increasing beneficial species for a healthy garden ecosystem, e.g. birds that consume invertebrates which feed on specific plants. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring success in supporting nature and wildlife to inform site management strategies, and contribute to appropriate national monitoring schemes e.g. a specific species survey or audit. 	/5
Section Total	<u>/20</u>



Reducing Negative Impacts – 30% of marks, out of 15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being sensitive to the environment, prioritising the least impactful measures when dealing with any ‘pest’, ‘disease’ or ‘weed’ control and avoiding weed killers and other pesticides wherever possible. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating sustainable practices and use of materials, such as leaving grass long in some areas, hedge trimming outside of bird nesting season, which can have a positive impact on wildlife. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating consideration for nature across all their activities rather than just restricting wildlife-friendly practices to a specific project or area. 	/5
<u>Section Total</u>	<u>/15</u>
Community Engagement – 30% of marks, out of 15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness of good practice through signage and interpretation, e.g. use of information boards, printed materials, digital presence, etc. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling the wider community to be involved in the management and protection of natural habitats. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating learning opportunities for the wider community, e.g. engaging with schools, or holding open days, talks, guided walks etc. 	/5
<u>Section Total</u>	<u>/15</u>
<u>Overall Total</u>	<u>/50</u>

Assessor’s Report	Between 150 – 600 words
Visual Evidence	



Please submit this entry, along with up to 4 labelled images, or a link to a video of up to 2 minutes. Please see RHS guidance around photos and permissions. If including a video link, please add here: