



## **The Jeffery's and DWT guide to garden 'winter wonderlands'**

We generally think of our gardens as summer haunts and in the winter when it's cold and frosty they're not so welcoming to us. They are still, however, if well-managed to attract the wildlife, a real wonderland.

Here are a few autumn/winter gardening tips to help our smaller friends find a way in and stay in your garden:

- 1) Provide a natural shelter for creatures to snuggle up in with thick hedges, shrubs, climbing plants and wood piles.
- 2) Make shady, quiet beds for frogs, toads, newts, slow worms, hedgehogs and other small mammals by piling together a few logs covered liberally with leaves and twigs.
- 3) Offer opportunities for insects to camouflage themselves. Ivy is perfect for this as it is dense and flowers well into the winter. Other climbing plants such as clematis and honeysuckle are also good.
- 4) Food and shelter are welcomed by local wildlife with nuts, berries, flowers and foliage being in abundance on hawthorn and blackthorn hedges. Holly, hazel, field maple, guelder rose and spindle can be scattered alongside. Oak and ash trees are also good if your garden is spacious enough.
- 5) All types of nest boxes help the birds together with other small creatures and are very popular now with all shapes and sizes available. You can also build nest areas – try hollow bamboo sticks of varying diameters in a cylindrical section of a plastic bottle open at both ends for bees or a roll of corrugated card inside a plastic bottle for lacewings.

Once your hard work is done, take time to appreciate the wildlife in your garden and keep a lookout for signs of emerging species in the Spring.

*For information and advice on products for your wildlife gardening visit [www.jefferys-online.co.uk](http://www.jefferys-online.co.uk), call 01626 832250 or visit our store at Station Yard, St John's Lane, Bovey Tracey. TQ13 9AL.*