

Introduction

You can help wildlife by providing dead wood within your garden. Many species of lichens, mosses, fungi and invertebrates depend for part or all of their life cycle on the presence of dead wood.



Did you know...?

- Many beautiful beetles have larvae living within dead wood.



- An unmanaged wildwood may have more than 25% of its total timber in the form of dead wood. Most managed woodlands have less than 10%.
- Birds, including woodpeckers and willow tits need dead wood within their habitats for feeding and nesting.
- Holes in dead wood are vital to bats and owls as breeding and roosting sites.

This leaflet will...

Help you create a log pile habitat in your garden.

Show you the types of wildlife that may be attracted to your log pile.

Creating dead wood habitat for wildlife in your garden...

Where it is safe to do so leave standing dead wood in place. Many types of wildlife will benefit from dead branches left on a tree. If you are lucky, woodpeckers may visit.

Should you have to fell dead trees for safety reasons it may still be possible to leave an upright stump. Growing honeysuckles, wild roses, ivies or creepers over the stump can create an attractive garden feature that will support invertebrates and provide nest sites for garden birds.



Wren - eats small invertebrates and builds its nest out of moss, two things that may be found on dead wood.



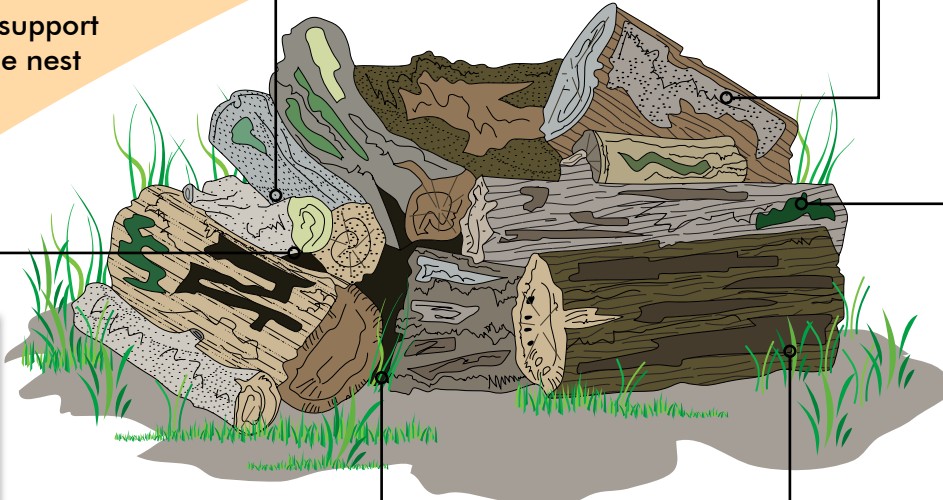
Bank vole - A woodpile can attract many different small mammals searching for food and shelter.



Fungi - many different fungi can be found growing on deadwood.



Woodlouse - feeds on dead wood and plants and is preyed upon by many different animals including shrews, toads, centipedes and spiders.



Common toad - leaving spaces between the dead wood will create a hiding place for a toad.



Lesser stag beetle - their 'c' shaped larvae tends to be found in dry decaying wood above the soil level.

Top tips to build your log pile:

Log piles are an easy way to help make your garden wildlife friendly. However, please do not remove fallen dead wood from wild areas as it will always have more benefit to wildlife in its original location.

Some useful tips for building your log pile are:

- Include different sizes of both hard and softwood logs. Large logs are better than twiggy pieces. The holes between large logs will be big enough for amphibians or even hedgehogs to hibernate in.
- Logs in contact with the soil will remain damp underneath which is vital for many invertebrates such as woodlice. Try half-burying some logs in the ground at the base of your pile.
- Shady areas are better for log piles. You can hide your log pile under a tree or shrub if you do not want it visible and it will still benefit wildlife. Alternatively grow a creeper or ivy over it.
- Avoid using treated, painted or chemically preserved wood.

Frequently asked questions

Where can I obtain wood for my log pile?

Friends and neighbours who are having work done on their trees can be good sources. Any local tree surgeon should be able to help. If you are buying logs for fuel use some to form your log pile – it's always best to use logs which still have their bark on.

Will a log pile next to a pond benefit wildlife?

Log piles next to ponds make safe refuges for frogs, toads and newts and will increase the survival rate for these species as well as providing ideal hibernation sites. You may even be lucky enough to attract a grass snake.

Can I create a log pile in a small garden?

Yes. Even two or three logs left in contact with soil will provide refuge for many invertebrates. Lifting your logs carefully makes a great window on a hidden world to introduce children to the fascinating life cycles of minibeasts.



To find out more about Norfolk's wildlife visit **www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalconnections**

Alternatively call Norfolk's free wildlife information service on **01603 598333**

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Protecting **Norfolk's Wildlife** for the Future