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### Opening extract from

## RHS: Wildlife Garden

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## Grow it

### A wildlife hedge

Hedges are alive with wildlife.

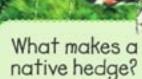
They provide food, shelter, cover, security, and a place

for animals to hibernate and raise their young. Not only that, but as a hedge flowers, it attracts a mass of buzzing, nectar-eating

bees, butterflies, and other bugs.



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A native hedge is composed of several different trees and shrubs, climbers, and wild flowers. Typically, it will consist of 25% hawthorn and then four other varieties of tree. After it has established, native climbing plants and wild flowers can be added. Among the best trees and shrubs are spindle, hazel, field maple, sweet briar, crab apple, blackthorn and common alder. Honeysuckle, ivy, and clematis are ideal climbers. And, to make it even more wildlife-friendly, you could plant wild primrose, wild strawberry, red campion, and greater stitchwort at the bottom.



Binds use hedges for cover. They also make their nests in them and eat the nuts and bernies of plants – or any bugs they may find there. like this sparrow. Voies shelter at the bottom of a hedge and use its protection to move from one part of the garden to another. These shy creatures are difficult to see as they only come out at right and like to stay hidden. Bees and batterfles are attracted by the nectar-rich flowers that grow on some hedges. like the hawthorn. They also like the flowers that grow at the base of hedges.



### Grow your own hedge

A hedge looks great around a garden. Trees and shrubs are best planted in autumn, spaced 36 cm (1 ft) apart. If you don't have the room to plant one, you can grow an ornamental hedge in a long, wide container such as a trough. Fill it with multi-purpose compost and place the plants close together. Let them knit together. Keep plants at a manageable height by pruning. They will soon attract lots of insects and pollinators.







Frogs and toads hibernate in old wood that gathers at the botton of the hedge. They can also feed on any passing bags during the sunner; canouflaging beautifully into the leaf litter at the base.

### Growit Smiley

### Smiley sunflowers

Sunflowers are great all-rounders for wildlife, and if you have room for just one plant, make it a sunflower! They grow well in any large container – just make sure they have plenty of water and sunlight. These plants are not only easy and fun to grow, reaching amazing heights, but they also provide year-round food for wildlife.

Bright yellow petals attract insects.

This is when the seeds grow - a favourite snack for birds.

### Did you know?

- Sanflowers are not just yellow. Seed companies sell varieties
   Sosziosi sell varieties
   The control of the coloured blooms.
- Dwarf varieties of sunflower grow to just 45 cm (12 in) and are ideal for pots.
- The sunflower is native to North America, but is the national flower of Russia.
- Sunflower seeds are rich in oil and are full of calcium, iron, and lots of important minerals.

### Sowing



Plant some seeds into empty yeghant pots using seed compost. Sow a single seed in each, 3 cm (1 in) deep. Water.



When it outgrows the original container, put it into a bigger pot (with a drainage hole in the bottom) in a sunny spot outdoors when there is no risk of frost.

# Wedgeen 1277867 ped



Put in a sunny place and cover with polythene. Soon a little shoot will appear (remove the polythene at this point).



Once your sunflower has started to fade, pick out a few old blossoms and make your very own "sunflower smile".

# Sowing outdoors

It's sany to get paked in the eve

by the support

to cover the

rom toppling over by securing stems with

garden twine to a

stout cane or



Prepare the soil well by digging over the area and raking it until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Then sow your seeds 5 cm (2 in) deep, 45 cm (12 in) apart. Cover and water. Three weeks later they should start sprouting.

#### A food feast

Sunflowers provide nectar for bugs and then a feast of delicious seeds. Once the sunflower has flowered, leave the head to droop and dry and watch as birds, squirrels, and small mammals visit and munch away. Yum! Yum!

This filt picks off the old blossoms with its beak to get to the jucy seeds.

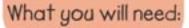
The tallest sunflower ever grown was

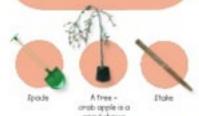
7.76 m (25 ft) tall

# Growit Plant a tree

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Leafy canopies provide shelter for timid creatures, while birds and some small mammals will build nests in their branches. Berries, fruit, and nuts are an important source of food, and blossom attracts pollinating insects. Choose your tree carefully. Some are ideal in a small space, but others are more suitable for a larger garden.









Watering can



First dig your hole, Make the hole at least twice as wide as the tree's "morball".



Make sure it's the right depth by placing a stick across the hole and seeing if it is level with the tree's container.



Remove the plastic around the tree's roots and fill in the soil around the tree.



Hammer in your stake at a 45° angle and attach the stake to the tree with a tree tie.



Water the tree. Job done! Make sure you keep the tree well watered and remove the stake when the tree is strong enough to stand alone.



