



## **Cottage Garden Services**

### **The Specialist in Organic Gardening**

#### **“Useful Tips for Your Garden” - Fact Sheet n. 5**

##### **- The Wildlife Garden -**

No garden is complete without wildlife. Birds, bees, butterflies, frogs, toads and insects will add life, colour and interest as well as help to control garden pests.

Your garden will become a valuable resource, providing a shelter for all the wild creatures and plants under threat from the spreading over use of chemicals.

Choosing plants that will encourage feeding, such as nectar plants like Sedum Spectabile or Buddleia Davidii, and wild flowers like corn flowers, poppies, etc. will attract butterflies and bees. Remember that colours play an important role, too. In fact, butterflies seem to be drawn to blues and pinks, while moths prefer white flowers.

With the right preparation and good quality flower seeds, a wild flower meadow can be created in every garden.

Birds will choose areas with trees, hedges or shrubs where they can nest. Some, however, may prefer bird-boxes, well out of any cat's reach. These should be placed about 2-3 m high and in the shade, but out of the wind. Plants producing berries and seeds, like Holly, Cotoneaster and Pyracantha will also supply a good food source. Providing birds and the other living creatures with water is very important, too. A bird table or bath can be installed in the garden. And why not a pond, which will offer a pleasant habitat for aquatic plants and animals? A good idea is to place a few logs around the base of the compost heap. This will provide the right environment for mosses, lichens and toadstools to grow and an ideal habitat for insects and beetles.

Other Fact Sheets are available for: 1 - Hostas; 2 - Ground Covering Plants; 3 – Garden Maintenance; 4 – Organic Gardening & Compost Heap