



Controlling garden pests
with wildlife in mind



Crop Protection
Association



John Day rspb-images.com

You can make your garden a wildlife haven by growing a wide variety of plants that provide food and shelter for all kinds of creatures. However you do need to look after your garden to create a rich habitat of healthy trees, shrubs and flowers year round.

From time to time action may be required to help plants which are being eaten by insects, weakened by fungal diseases, or crowded out by weeds.

Using cultural methods to avoid these problems, such as increasing plant diversity and introducing aromatic plants, is usually the best option for the environment.

More information can be found at:

www.rspb.org.uk/chemicalfree.

If these methods appear insufficient to deal with a particular problem, careful use of a Garden Care Chemical can be considered.

The key to ensuring Garden Care Chemicals, such as insecticides, fungicides, and weedkillers, are safe, is that they are used in exactly the way described on the container or packaging.

Using chemicals

Garden Care Chemicals, based on synthetic or naturally sourced ingredients, are highly effective but must be used safely. Used selectively on limited areas of the garden, they should not affect the other wildlife living there. But if they are not used and disposed of according to label instructions they can harm the environment.

Natural chemicals, such as acetic acid (vinegar) and fatty acids (soap) can be effective for some problems and maybe suitable for organic gardening.

Here are some key ways to ensure safe use:

- Check before you buy and do not buy more than you need. You may already have what you need.
- Always read the label and use according to label instructions.
- Check for any restrictions on use for example near ponds, fish tanks etc.
- Always use appropriate equipment to apply the chemical.
- Always accurately measure the product. Do not make up more than you need.
- Only use on the area/plants where you identify a problem that needs to be tackled.
- **Spray early morning or early evening when bees and other insects are less active.**
- Spray only in calm conditions; avoid spraying in strong sunshine and before or just after rain.
- Consider Ready to Use (RTU) products. These can be reused until the container is empty and can then be safely disposed of in household waste.



Safe disposal of chemicals

As important as safe use is safe disposal - incorrect disposal can lead to a risk of water pollution that could be harmful to wildlife.



Here are some key ways to ensure safe disposal:

- Use up any surplus spray solution by applying on the areas covered by the approved use.
- **Never dispose of unwanted product, diluted product or rinsings in household drains or ditches.**
- Rinse empty concentrate container three times and use up the rinsings by applying to the area you are treating in accordance with the approved use. Containers can then be safely disposed of in the household waste.
- Dispose of unused product in its container at a registered household waste site (civic amenity site). Contact your local waste disposal authority (County Council or Unitary Council) for details.



Slugs and Snails

SLUGS AND SNAILS ARE AN IMPORTANT FOOD SOURCE FOR BIRDS AND OTHER GARDEN CREATURES. BUT THEY CAN ALSO BE A COMMON PEST.



A range of protection methods are available to protect plants from slugs, like coarse grit or other barrier material, traps, copper tape and slug pellets either based on synthetic chemicals or inorganic naturally occurring chemicals. If using slug pellets, they should always be scattered thinly on the ground as per the instructions and stored according to the label.

This is a joint initiative between the Garden Company members of the Crop Protection Association and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. It is designed to ensure that, when a Garden Care Chemical is used, the product is used safely and disposed of safely. This will ensure it works as intended with no harm to the user, wildlife in the garden or the wider environment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- RSPB's Homes for Wildlife - inspiring people to transform their homes and gardens into wildlife havens - www.rspb.org.uk/hfw
- RSPB - managing garden pests naturally - www.rspb.org.uk/chemicalfree
- Common Sense Gardening - providing information on safe use and disposal of garden use chemicals
www.garden-care.org.uk/
- Chemicals Regulation Directorate-Pesticides
www.pesticides.gov.uk/garden_home.asp

USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY.
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND PRODUCT
INFORMATION BEFORE USE

Supported by



Crop Protection Association
2 Swan Court, Cygnet Park, Hampton, Peterborough PE7 8GX
T: 01733 355370
www.garden-care.org.uk www.cropprotection.org.uk

RSPB, The Lodge, Potton Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL
T: 01767 680551 www.rspb.org.uk

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity:
England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654