

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENS

Nature Conservation Information Sheet



Sharing your garden

Home gardens provide a fantastic opportunity to recreate habitats for our local wildlife. From lizards and frogs to quendas and possums, find out how to encourage these visitors to your own garden and what you can do to keep them safe.

Planting Natives

Plant a variety of local native species to best provide for the needs of local wildlife. Include a range of shapes and sizes from trees through to shrubs and groundcovers.

- Trees provide safety for possums and other small climbing mammals
- Thick shrubby areas provide shelter and a safe retreat for ground dwelling animals
- Select plants that cater for seed eaters, nectar lovers and insectivores

Aim to have something in flower in the garden throughout the year. You can do this by visiting your local nursery during each season and selecting the plants in flower. For more information see [Gardening with Native Plants](#).

Responsible Pet Ownership

If your garden is visited by local wildlife you need to make sure your pets are not posing a threat. Domestic animals can have a significant impact on local wildlife.

- Always keep pets in at night
- Don't allow them to roam the neighbourhood
- Feed pets indoors so they aren't sharing their food with wildlife

Possums

The critically endangered Western ringtail possum is only found in the south west. Their preferred habitat is the peppy woodlands which have now largely been converted into urban areas.

- Plant peppy trees in your garden to provide vital habitat
- Preserve mature trees in the garden for possums to travel through, nest in and feed on without having to come down to the ground
- Consider adding some possum boxes to your garden



Quendas

Quendas require a densely vegetated area to provide suitable habitat.

- Thick mulch will encourage the fungi, worms and beetles that quenda feed on
- Place a saucer of water at ground level next to thick vegetation to allow them to drink safely
- Provide hollow logs or tubes as a safe retreat to hide from predators.

A pallet laid down on the ground and camouflaged in the garden will provide a simple shelter

Lizards

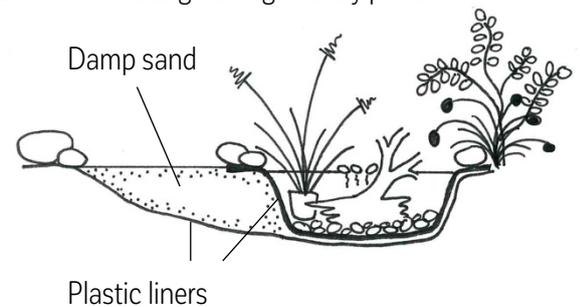
Encouraging lizards to take up residence in the garden keeps the snakes and mice away. King skinks feed on mice and will attack snakes that enter their territory.

- Sunny areas with rocks provide somewhere for lizards to warm themselves
- Hollow logs, tubes or pallets provide a safe place for them to hide from predators

Frogs

Garden water features can provide fabulous frog habitat. Here are a few hints on how to design a frog friendly pond.

- Provide plenty of logs, rocks and plants for your frogs to hide amongst.
- Your pond should include floating plants, emergent plants and overhanging plants. This will keep the water cool and oxygenated and provide food and shelter for frogs and tadpoles.
- Some frogs require moist soil rather than open water to burrow and breed. These areas are also attractive to insects as a safe place to drink without drowning – particularly butterflies and bees.



If you are worried about mosquito larvae, introduce some local native fish into your pond. Unlike many exotic freshwater fish, native species will eat the insects without attacking the eggs or tadpoles. Ask for Western Pygmy Perch, Western Minnow or Swan River Goby at your local pet shop.



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Photos provided by Dr Boyd Wykes, Steve Castan, Cass Jury, Drew McKenzie and Katie Biggs

