

Making space for wildlife



Everyone can welcome nature to their neighbourhood, whether you have a garden or not! Did you know that one in eight of us in Britain have no access to a private garden? The likelihood drops for those of us living in cities and drops even further for ethnic minority communities. Gardening has fantastic benefits for our health and local environment that should be accessible to all, but luckily even in a small space you can get some green fingered therapy at home. So how can you make space for nature if you don't have access to a garden of your own?



Create your own Neighbour Nature Network!

We're encouraging NightWatchers to get to know their neighbours (human, bat, and otherwise) and join forces to welcome night-time nature to your local area. You don't need a big space to make a big impact. Planting in containers can be enough to attract the insects that bats like to feed on! Joining together with neighbours can be a fantastic way of connecting lots of little wildlife-friendly features if you have limited space, time, or budget. Perhaps there's a shared patio in your building that you can put some containers in, maybe some of you have balconies. Even windowsills can make a fantastic home for a window box full of wildlife-friendly flowers! By coming together and each making a small space, neighbours can make a big difference for local bats!

Invite your neighbours for a seed sowing party

Welcome your network or nature loving neighbours to contribute one thing each. Whether that's a piece of equipment, a skill, or the willingness to do the weeding, it just takes a small contribution. One bag of compost, and just a couple seed packets can fill many containers and be an inexpensive, and space-saving way to get gardening. Too busy to water your plants? A watering schedule can encourage shared responsibility of your common space!

WHAT YOU NEED:

● A BAG OF MULTI-PURPOSE COMPOST

- ▶ Make sure it's marked as 'peat-free' compost.
- ▶ If you're really up for the challenge, you can even make your own compost with scrap materials and food waste! Check out our illustrated guide in our Stars of the Night leaflet.



● PLANTS OR SEEDS

- ▶ Use code 'MAKESPACE' at for an exclusive discount on bat friendly wildflower seeds designed especially for NightWatchers. Go to wildflower-favours.co.uk and search 'NightWatch'
- ▶ You can find more planting inspiration on our **Stars of the Night** leaflet
- ▶ Check out **Butterfly Conservation's Wild Spaces** for more tips on how to attract moths (AKA bat food!) and to register your wild space!

● CONTAINERS

- ▶ Containers needn't be expensive. Why not try your local Freecycle group or Facebook Marketplace for second hand options?
- ▶ You can even make your own containers for starting seeds using old food containers (e.g., empty trays from supermarket mushrooms or used margarine tubs) or toilet rolls tubes



● GARDENING GLOVES

- ▶ Protect your hands and you wash them when you are finished

OTHER ITEMS WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL:

● A DRILL, FOR ANY OF YOUR POTS THAT NEED A DRAINAGE HOLE ADDED

- ▶ Seeds and plants will become quickly waterlogged without drainage, which leads to yellowing leaves and dying plants!
- ▶ Add torn up cardboard or small rocks to the bottom of your container for even better drainage

● A WATERING CAN OR JUG FOR GIVING YOUR SEEDS A DRINK

- ▶ Keep seeds and young plants well-watered until they're established. Don't let containers dry out completely!

● PLANTS LABELS FOR REMINDING YOU WHICH SEEDS ARE WHICH

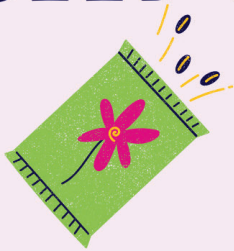
- ▶ You can use old ice-lolly sticks and biro to make free, compostable plant labels
- ▶ Or leave seeds unlabelled and have fun learning how to identify your plants as they grow!

Use our editable invitation to get your neighbours involved. Our handy checklist can be used to help make sure that together, you have everything you need for your Neighbour Nature Network's seed sowing party.



This guidance was produced for Project NightWatch as part of our guide to taking action for night-time wildlife. You can find the rest of our guides at www.bats.org.uk/resources/nightwatch

SEED SOWING CHECKLIST



PLANTS OR SEEDS



CONTAINERS



COMPOST



GLOVES



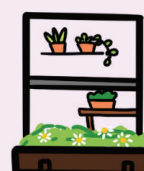
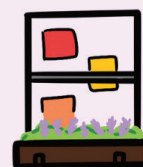
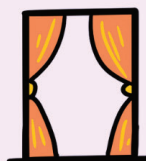
WATERING CAN



PLANTS LABELS



JOIN THE NEIGHBOUR NATURE NETWORK



This poster was developed by

NIGHT WATCH
www.bats.org.uk

WHEN:

WHERE:

WHAT TO BRING:

CONTACT:

