

The gardener's animal friends

Every year, gardeners declare war on snails and caterpillars, aphids and mites. The effect of insecticides and other poisons is rarely targeted.

The effects of plant protection products are devastating. These products destroy both pests and beneficial animals without distinguishing between the two. Yet alternatives do exist. Avoid pesticides and put your trust in the gardener's natural allies. Many animals, large or small, take great delight in feasting on the pests your garden has to offer. By teaming up with useful animals, we do not have to destroy all pests, but we can control their population size.

Beneficial animals in the garden

Here is a brief introduction to the main beneficial animals in your garden.

Moles and shrews

are snail and insect eaters. They do not cause rodent damage, instead digging their tunnels around plant roots. In addition, moles, a species protected by law, loosen the soil.



You can install different types of nesting boxes on the facade of your house or on tree trunks.



Hedgehogs hunt insects, snails and other unwelcome animals in the garden. Give them a home in your garden in a pile of leaves or dead wood.

© Photo Stock - Hedgehogs

Friends and enemies in the garden

Hedgehogs

feed on snails, grubs, worms, caterpillars and mice. They are also partial to small pieces of fruit.

Bats

destroy huge numbers of insects every night.

Birds

are among the garden's most helpful hard workers, hunting worms and insects.

Slow worms, lizards, frogs and toads

feast on slugs, worms and insects.

Chrysopids and ladybug larvae

exterminate between 200 and 800 aphids during their brief existence.

Earwigs and carabid beetles

feed on an assortment of insects.

Spiders

are important predators of insects and have their place in every garden.

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Encouraging the presence of beneficial animals

Beneficial animals enjoy helping you keep your garden pest-free. To do so, they need good living conditions so that they feel at ease. A diverse plant cover, dead foliage or a layer of mulch will provide a suitable microclimate and hiding places for many beneficial animals. Open attics, holes in trees, hedges and trees, as well as artificial nesting boxes, provide shelter for bats, birds and insects. Piles of branches and leaves are not only useful for many insects but also provide shelter for hedgehogs and slow worms. Piles of stones are an ideal living space for lizards. Ideally, avoid using any poisons, as they also destroy these helpful garden assistants.

Beneficial animals for sale commercially

In addition to beneficial animals that settle into your garden on their own, you can also buy useful live animals.

Pests	Beneficial animals (for sale commercially)
Aphids	Chrysopids
Weevils, June beetles, garden chafer	Nematodes (HM)
Earthworms and crickets	Nematodes (SC)
Snails and slugs	Nematodes (PH)
Spider mites	Chrysopids



Wild bees and other beneficial insects will be happy with small shelters in your garden. Photo shows educational panel presenting different forms of habitat.

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Annual plants not only provide a colourful focal point in the garden but also attract many beneficial animals.

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