



## ECO-GUIDE: NATIVE PLANTING GUIDE

### Native Planting Guide for Wingfield and Stowford, Wiltshire

Supporting local biodiversity starts in our gardens. By planting native species, you can create a garden that's not only beautiful but also beneficial for local wildlife. This guide outlines native plant species that thrive in the Wiltshire climate, attract pollinators, and promote a healthier ecosystem.

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#### 1. Benefits of Native Planting

- **Supports Wildlife:** Native plants provide food and shelter for local insects, birds, and small mammals.
- **Thrives in Local Conditions:** Adapted to the Wiltshire climate, native species are more resilient and require less maintenance.
- **Promotes Pollination:** Many native flowers attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators essential for biodiversity.
- **Reduces Pesticide Use:** Native plants are less susceptible to local pests, reducing the need for chemical treatments.

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#### 2. Native Plant Recommendations

##### Wildflowers

- Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*): Easy to grow, with cheerful white flowers that attract pollinators.
- Cowslip (*Primula veris*): A spring-blooming flower loved by bees and early pollinators.
- Meadow Cranesbill (*Geranium pratense*): Beautiful purple flowers that thrive in sunny or partially shaded areas.
- Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*): A hardy plant that provides nectar for butterflies and bees.

##### Shrubs and Trees

- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*): A versatile tree that provides berries for birds and dense shelter for small animals.
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*): Produces nuts for wildlife and serves as an excellent hedgerow plant.
- Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*): Vibrant red stems and flowers that support pollinators and birds.
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*): Also known as the mountain ash, it produces bright red berries loved by birds.

##### Grasses and Groundcover

- Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*): A graceful grass that adds texture and movement to your garden.
- Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*): A woodland groundcover that blooms in early spring.
- Wild Thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*): Low-growing and fragrant, it's perfect for sunny areas and attracts bees.



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### 3. Creating a Wildlife-Friendly Garden

- **Plant a Variety of Species:** Incorporate a mix of flowers, shrubs, and trees to support diverse wildlife.
  - **Avoid Chemical Pesticides and Herbicides:** Opt for organic alternatives to protect pollinators.
  - **Provide Water Sources:** A small pond or birdbath can make a big difference for local fauna.
  - **Let It Grow:** Allow parts of your garden to grow wild for shelter and nesting opportunities.
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### 4. Seasonal Tips

#### Spring

- Sow wildflower seeds and plant native shrubs.
- Clear invasive weeds to make space for new growth.

#### Summer

- Water newly planted trees and shrubs during dry spells.
- Deadhead flowers to encourage prolonged blooming.

#### Autumn

- Collect seeds from native plants to sow next year.
- Leave fallen leaves in garden beds for insects and soil health.

#### Winter

- Avoid cutting back dead plants; they provide shelter for wildlife.
  - Plan and design your garden for the next planting season.
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### 5. Resources and Local Support

- **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust:** Offers guidance on native planting and wildlife gardening ([www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)).
  - **Local Nurseries:** Look for native plants at garden centres like The Nursery in Hilperton or Whitehall Garden Centre in Lacock.
  - **Community Groups:** Join local initiatives to share ideas and resources.
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By incorporating native plants into your garden, you can make a meaningful impact on local biodiversity while enjoying a beautiful, low-maintenance outdoor space. Together, Wingfield and Stowford can become havens for wildlife and shining examples of how small actions lead to big environmental benefits.