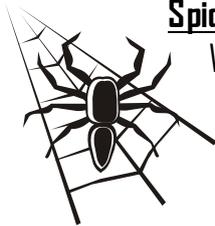


Doing Our Best For Wildlife

Ladybird hibernators can be made using thin, 'whippy' branches. Tie them together in the manner of a sheaf of corn. Stand them in a sheltered corner. Ladybirds and other insects will hibernate in the sheaf over the winter.



Spider Loops



When your shrubs are well grown, in spring, tie some of the thin branches into loops. This will provide useful loops for spiders to make their webs in.

Snail Pots

Dig out a hole, half as deep as a large plant pot on its side. Lay the pot into the hole – on its side – and then backfill with soil. (The pot entrance should be sheltered, but with enough space for the snails to find it.)

During the winter, or in very hot, dry weather, the snails will tend to congregate there.

If you put a piece of cuttlefish bone, (for budgies), into the back of the pot, the snails will rasp that to make their shells.



Note: Please remember that a wildlife garden should not be tidied up in the autumn as much as an ordinary garden – hibernating, (and non-hibernating), animals needs some plant material for winter shelter.

Leave some old hollow stems about. Although wildflower meadows have to be cut and the cuttings taken away in autumn, don't cut closer than 10cm. You can leave one or two clumps of 'caterpillar grasses', such as Cocksfoot, uncut to provide somewhere in the garden for any over-wintering caterpillars of the Meadow Brown.

If you know of anyone who sweeps up the leaves in autumn, you could beg a couple of bags to tip out and leave to rot into the ground.