

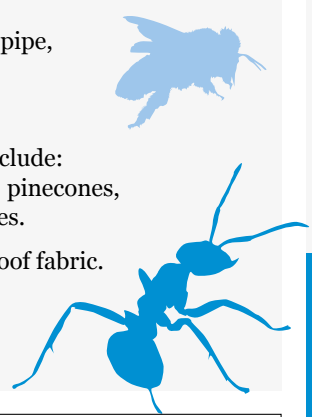


BUILD A GIANT BUG HOTEL

Leaves, straw, bamboo, twigs and old pots... These are the things that bugs, bees and spiders absolutely love! Our gardens are filled with these amazing minibeasts who help us to control the unwanted pests in our garden so that our plants and vegetables can flourish. Why not help to look after these amazing creatures by building them their very own giant bug hotel?

What you need

- 2 – 3 wooden pallets. Small wooden boxes work really well!
- Any recycled materials that can include: egg boxes, ceramic pots, plastic containers, plastic drain-pipe, bricks, mesh or wood.
- String / baling twine.
- Garden waste that can include: leaves, twigs, dead wood, pinecones, straw or old bamboo canes.
- Ground sheet or waterproof fabric.



Up to 3 hours



all ages

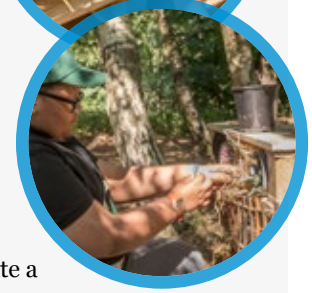


outdoor fun



Instructions

1. Insects like cool, damp conditions so place your pallet(s) by a nearby shady hedge or tree.
2. Fill your various recycled materials with leaves and twigs using the string to tie everything together and keep it in place.
3. You can use different materials to create smaller habitats for differing insects. E.g. Straw enables smaller insects to burrow in, creating a safe environment to hibernate. You could fill a length of drain-pipe with bamboo canes to create a wonderful habitat for bees.
4. Continue to fill in the gaps of your wooden pallet or box using a combination of recycled materials and garden waste. You can continue to use loose leaves, bark and pine cones to fill in some of the smaller gaps.
5. Add a layer of ground sheet to keep your new bug habitat dry.
6. Once your insect habitat is finished, you could plant some wild flowers around it. They'll not only look beautiful, but will provide food for bees, butterflies and other flying insects that will be attracted to your habitat.



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