

REWILDING YOUR SCHOOL

Eco Schools Market Harborough



10 TOP TIPS TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY

- 1. Stop using chemicals** - ask your grounds contractors what they use on your grounds & ask them to stop!
- 2. Plant more hedges and trees** - provide shelter, food and wildlife corridors for insects and animals to move safely through the grounds
- 3. Dig a pond, nature pool or bog garden** – ponds can be very small if space is an issue. Check out Creative Ponds Covers for child safe pond covers.
- 4. Install bat boxes, bird boxes and feeders** – consider installing one with a camera so that children can see what happens inside.
- 5. Create a rock garden** - pile old rocks, bricks, and pebbles in a quiet corner of your garden to provide a home for many species of insects and small mammals.
- 6. Build solitary bee homes**- to encourage bees! Or go one step further and contact local honey producers to keep a hive at your school.
- 7. Make a vertical woodpile** - encourages beetles, woodlice, millipedes, invertebrates and other insects.
- 8. Leave an area of the field un-mowed.** Add your pollinator project to the B-lines & stake with a blue heart.
- 9. Create a compost area.** For the best soil.
- 10. Make space to collect & store leaf mulch** – a great home for microbes and creepy crawlies. Once it has broken down it can be spread on your veg beds over winter, ready for planting season.



**SHARE YOUR TOP
TIPS**
**SEND US PHOTOS &
A DESCRIPTION**



LOCAL EXPERTS AND RESOURCES:

BEES & POLLINATORS:

·To make a bee hotel visit **RHS education and learning**, for a series of curriculum based downloadable resources to help you rewild areas of the grounds. To encourage bees and pollinators and help link up the nation's wildflower meadow in B-lines, get your B-Lines School Pack from **Buglife** or **B-Lines East and Midlands of England**.

REWILDING YOUR SCHOOL:

·BLUE Campaign - to find out more about Blue Hearts & rewilding, search **blue campaign hub**.
·Contact your local 'In Bloom' group to ask for help in creating a wildflower area, search **Market Harborough in Bloom**.

HEDGEHOGS & MAMMALS:

·Simple ways to attract small mammals to your grounds (not a UK site but helpful) visit <https://www.nwf.org/en/Garden-for-Wildlife/Wildlife/Attracting-Small-Mammals>.
·Tips on making your garden or grounds hedgehog friendly and making hedgehog houses, search for **hedgehog street** & visit their website.
·**Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group** can offer advice if you have bats or want to encourage bats to your area.

PONDS:

·Check out **creative pond covers**, knowledge pool, who have produced guides on creating different types of ponds.
·For guides to make a mini pond and how to pond dip & identification, go to the **RSPB fun and learning pages**.

TREES, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND LONG FORESTS:

·**Harborough Woodland** are a local community tree planting group able to direct you to FREE trees, offer planting advice and help you coordinate a planting day for your community.

COMPOST:

·Find you local experts and advice on growing vegetables without chemicals at **garden organic Leicestershire master composters**.

BIRDS:

·For 'spot it guides' to help with bird identification, go to the **RSPB fun and learning pages**.



- Oaks are home to by far the most invertebrates and fungi of any other native species.
- In the UK, the Fortingall Yew in Perthshire is believed to be our oldest tree, with an estimated age between 2,000 and 3,000 years.
- A dragonfly can open its mouth as wide as its entire head.

ALLOTMENT CORNER

- **Jobs:** Tidy up greenhouse. Turn compost. Disinfect bird feeders. Prepare seed beds, top with mulch and cover to stop weeds growing in the meantime, leave for the worms to turn. Prune currants.
- **Sow now: Indoors**, aubergines, calabrese, celery, **French beans**, parsley, peppers & celeriac. **Outdoors**, beetroot, **broad beans**, carrots, chard, kohlrabi, onions (bulbs), **peas**, parsnips, perpetual spinach, rocket, **radishes** & turnips.
- **Plant now: Indoors**, salad crops & tomatoes. **Outdoors**, asparagus, summer cabbages, summer cauliflowers, **garlic**, mint, onions, **potatoes**, shallots, **strawberries**,
- **In Season and ready to pick:** Brussel sprouts, cabbages, cauliflowers, kale, land cress, leeks, radishes, perpetual spinach, salad onions, salsify, swedes, turnips, sprouting broccoli, winter purslane. **Easy to grow**.



GET IN CONTACT

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