

# Quick Wins for Nature

Rural officer

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# 1. Change how you manage your space



- No cutting should take place during peak bird nesting season, which runs from March to September.
- Leaving until January or February is ideal, as hedgerow berries provide a valuable autumn and winter food source for birds like redwings, blackbirds and fieldfares.
- Hedges should not be cut every year, as flower buds often form on second-year growth.
- Trimming hedges on a two or three year rotation, targeting different sections each year, will make sure there are always flowers for pollinators in spring and berries for birds in autumn.

Hedges cut every three years can produce two and a half times as much blossom as those cut annually. Rotational cutting can also save time and money that would be invested in annual cutting.



# Let the grass grow!

By providing at least two metres of uncut grass you provide ideal nesting, feeding, egg-laying and overwintering habitat for birds, insects and small mammals.



## 2. Leave a gap!



- *No single garden is large enough for a hedgehog population, and no single garden can offer everything they need. Think of your garden as part of a local network.*



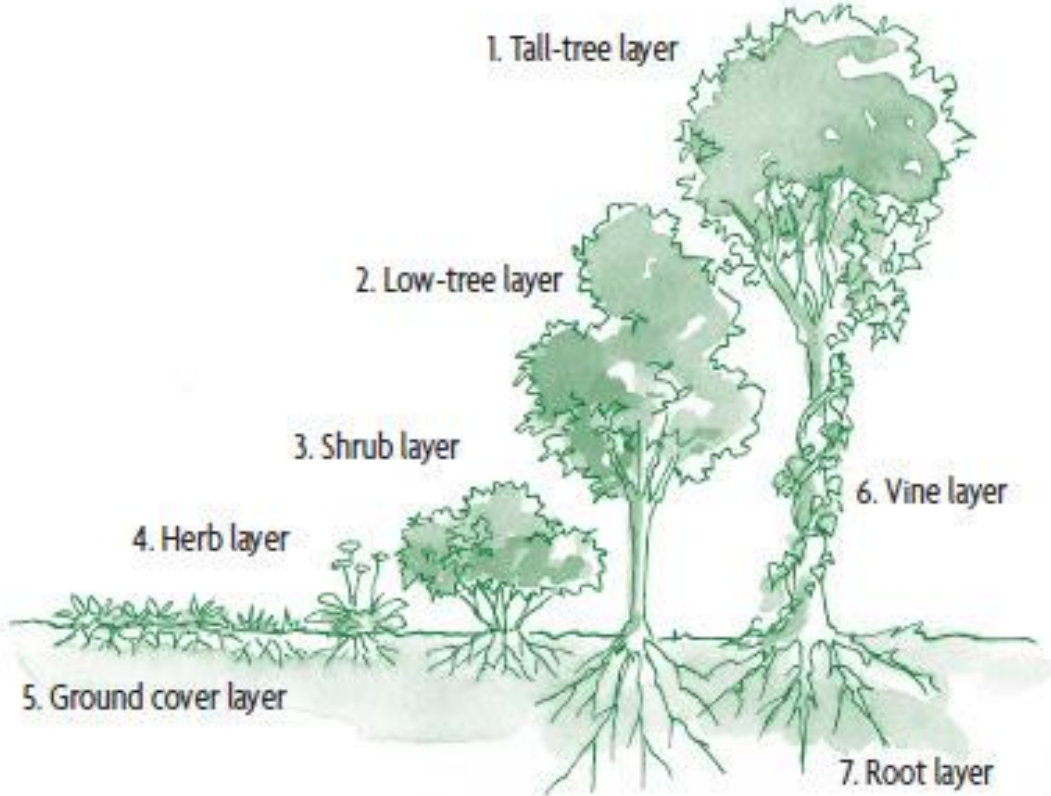
# 3. Leave deadwood

## Log piles



- Used by hibernating hedgehogs, reptiles, and amphibians
- As they break down, they become home to lots of invertebrates

# 4. Enhance what you have!



# 5. Add a pond

Providing diverse habitat and improving biodiversity in your area

- Creating a food and drink source for an array of wildlife, such as invertebrates including pond skaters, water snails, beetles, and boatmen
- Attracting beneficial wildlife soon after they are created, including amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl, and mammals
- Supporting wildlife to keep garden pests in balance
- Attracting pollinators

## Half a million ponds

Since the 1880s map-based estimates suggest that probably more than **half a million ponds** have been lost in England and Wales alone.

