

Start a log or leaf pile

Simply creating or retaining piles of fallen leaves, making a log pile or starting a compost heap within your Naturespace will provide both fantastic food sources and shelter for local wildlife.

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Why start a leaf or log pile?

Leaf and log piles provide a number of benefits to wildlife. For a small animal, like a hedgehog or a frog, one of these piles is a buffet of invertebrates, a potential hibernation shelter and a great source of nesting and bedding materials.

Decomposers of this dead plant material, including beetles, fungi and lichens all thrive in these piles. Their efforts help to recycle nutrients back into the ecosystem, plus release heat making these great spaces for reptiles to nest and shelter.

How to get started with your leaf or log pile

During the autumn, deciduous trees will lose their leaves, by collecting these into a quiet area of your space you can provide a valued habitat for wildlife. Some of the species that may move in to the pile include bees, frogs and woodlice.



Creating a new leaf pile each year helps maintain a good level of this habitat. If you can keep them undisturbed for at least two years this gives the best chance for animals to benefit. Mixing the remaining leaf-mould into your soil introducing fungi, which help the soil to absorb nutrients.



It's easy to create a log pile. Simply gather together cuttings from your own space or ask for some from a tree surgeon or gardener you know. Collecting these into a damp shady area creates a great space for wildlife.



The bigger the logs you use and longer you leave the pile for, the greater the benefits will be. A whole range of invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and even small mammals will potentially benefit.

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