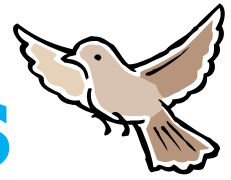




School's



GOING WILD!



TOP TIPS

- 1. Relax!** Leave the grass to grow a little longer and the hedges untrimmed – the more natural a wild zone the more nature it will attract.
- 2. Layers** Try to have two or three different layers and heights of plants; eg shrubs, small trees and larger trees. Trees are a vital perching and roosting spot for birds, and great for hanging feeders, so if you only have a small space consider a potted tree or smaller variety (eg ornamental crab apple tree).
- 3. Hedges** Spiky, berry-bearing hedges offer shelter, sustenance and nesting spots, as well as being effective cat ambush deterrents. Try lodging suet blocks and energy balls among the branches.
- 4. Water** This is essential for wildlife, particularly seed eating birds who don't get the moisture they need from their diet alone. Birds need to drink and bathe daily, so a pond with shallow edges, a bird bath, or some other water supply is vital to keep them coming back to your wild zone.
- 5. Organic** Pesticides are harmful to wildlife, the environment and even humans. They can get into water supplies and onto food, and can have significant long term negative effects on many species. Encouraging birds into your wild zone helps control insect populations without harmful chemicals.
- 6. Tolerate!** All creatures should be welcome, because they all contribute to the ecological balance of your wild zone. Teach the children to appreciate and enjoy all visiting species.