

# THE WILD GARDEN – A PARADISE FOR INSECTS



Private gardens account for around 930,000 hectares in Germany, or 2.6% of the country's total area. If you design your own garden to be close to nature, you can create small islands for higher insect diversity – even in the middle of the city.



Gardening Tip from  
the Palmengarten Exhibition  
DUSTED OFF –  
OF FLOWERS AND THEIR VISITORS  
[palmengarten.de](http://palmengarten.de)



## WITH A FEW TIPS, YOU CAN DESIGN YOUR OWN NATURAL PARADISE:

### Native, site-appropriate plants

Pay attention to what plants you put in your garden. Native perennials and woody plants actually provide insects with food by means of pollen and nectar, unlike many cultivated, double-flowered varieties. Site-appropriate species are more robust and easier to care for because they are adapted to the natural conditions.

### Gardening without poison

Do not reach for the poison spray in case of pest infestation, since this negatively affects all insects in your garden as well as other animals. Instead, use beneficial insects such as ladybugs and lacewings, or natural, plant-based pesticides.

### Gardening without peat

By using peat-free substrates, you protect bogs as important habitats outside your own garden.

### Rainwater instead of tap water

If possible, use rainwater (from roofs and gutters without copper and zinc) for watering to save resources.

### Mow less often

To provide food for insects on grassy expanses as well, mow no more than three times a year and leave individual patches unmowed. This ensures that food and nesting sites are always available for the insects.

### Less order

Small “wild” corners in the garden provide shelter for insects. Leave small piles of leaves or hollow plant stems in place even through the winter. These offer insects a place to overwinter.

### Diversity creates diversity

Use deadwood piles, stone walls, miniature ponds, water troughs, and clay bowls to create diverse habitats and help insects find food and care for their broods.

In your natural garden, insects will feel just as comfortable as you do!