Space for food and nature
Hicki Hird The Wildlife Trusts

Policies that support urban food growing and greening – Vital for nature
Public, business and institutional engagement
Coronation gardens
Why is it important?

• With nearly 5% of England covered by residential gardens*, restoring these to wildlife-friendly spaces would make a significant contribution to The Wildlife Trusts’ vision of 30% of land connected and protected for nature’s recovery.
  • *Source: gov.uk: Land use statistics: England, 2022

• 74% of adults are worried about climate change, the second biggest concern behind the rising cost of living.
  • Source: ONS Opinions & Lifestyle Survey, 2022

• Eight million households lack access to greenspace, with more than 1 in 10 neighbourhoods, over 90% of the population have no access to nature within 10 mins’ walk.
  • Source: Wildlife & Countryside LINK, 2021

• 1% of advertising spend goes towards fruit and vegetables, and we need to eat 30% more F&V
  • Source: Food Foundation, 2023
Coronation Gardens: For food and nature

What it is and what the plans are!
Programme messaging

Through the delivery of Coronation Gardens we would like to see **communities inspired to come together to take local action** that collectively has a positive impact – increasing nature in and around the places we live, and improving the health and wellbeing of the UK population.

**Headline messages:**
Nature gives us our food – from the worms that keep our soils healthy, to the bees that pollinate our fruit trees and tomato plants, we need nature. We can all do our bit to help our wildlife recover and continue to play its vital role in our lives.

**Healthy food production goes hand-in-hand with healthy nature – opportunity to bring this to life.**
Biodiversity and nature in food gardens

Fruit trees are the ultimate double-duty plant, providing food for you, for birds and insects as well as plenty of places to shelter and nest. Spread the word, share the knowledge and be part of the solution with your family and friends.

Clare Gibbs, principal ecologist at Surrey Wildlife Trust, shares her passion for wildlife gardening, why it is pivotal to reviving biodiversity and her 5 top tips for how you can help.

1. **Fruit trees are the ultimate double-duty plant.** From autumn to late spring, they provide food for birds and insects, and then blossom and flower as the seasons change.

2. **Create a wildlife-friendly garden.** It could be as simple as digging a pond, planting native species, or providing food and shelter for birds and butterflies.

3. **Plant native plants.** Choose plants that are adapted to your local climate and soil conditions, which will support local wildlife.

4. **Use organic gardening practices.** Avoid using pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals that can harm wildlife.

5. **Join a wildlife-friendly community garden.** By volunteering at a local garden, you can help to create a safe and welcoming environment for wildlife.

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**Biodiversity and nature in food gardens**

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Phase One

- Focus will be on individuals and families
- Brand new website providing advice to help get people started – which we'll expand over the coming months
- People are being asked to pledge their involvement
- On pledging, people will be encouraged to grow something to eat in peat-free soil, plant pollinator-friendly plants and avoid all pesticides and weedkillers.
Welcome to Coronation Gardens!

Kate Bradbury, garden writer and author, shares her enthusiasm for the new initiative helping people to grow food alongside nature.

Even the smallest of outdoor spaces can be used to grow wildflowers alongside salads and herbs – it’s all about getting creative and thinking outside the box. I love seeing imaginative growing ideas on balconies and window ledges and I hope that people everywhere will get behind this project, using outdoor areas of all shapes and sizes.

— Kate Bradbury, garden writer, designer and presenter

The website: mycoronationgarden.org
Pledge and ‘five features’ of a Coronation Garden

• Grow healthy food to eat
• Plant pollinator-friendly blooms
• Create a water feature
• Leave a patch of long grass or pile of logs
• Go chemical and peat-free

& raising local understanding and share updates and pics on social media using #MyCoronationGarden
Research and evaluation

- Number and location of “Coronation Gardens”.
- User research to find most effective ways to help people take action for nature.
- Evaluation of community organising approaches through a nature and food lens, contributing to our Team Wilder body of evidence.
- Shared approaches and learning with our partners.
- Attitudes and behaviour change.