

Garden for Life is helping everyone grow closer to nature by exploring, enjoying and caring for biodiversity in gardens throughout Scotland.

Supporters of the project include: British Trust for Ornithology; BTCV; Beechgrove Garden (Tern TV); Butterfly Conservation Scotland; Buglife; Biodiversity Implementation Team (SNH); Bumblebee Conservation Trust; Community Food & Health (Scotland); Dobbies; Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens; Grounds for Learning; Grow Forth; Keep Scotland Beautiful; Plantlife Scotland; Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; RSPB Scotland; Rural Projects; Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society; Scottish Government Biodiversity Team; Scottish Natural Heritage; Scottish Wildlife Trust; The National Trust for Scotland; Trellis.

garden for orchards

and help local wildlife

Where can I find out more?

BBC Breathing Places www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/scotland

BBC Gardening www.bbc.co.uk/gardening

Brogdale Horticultural Trust www.brogdale.org

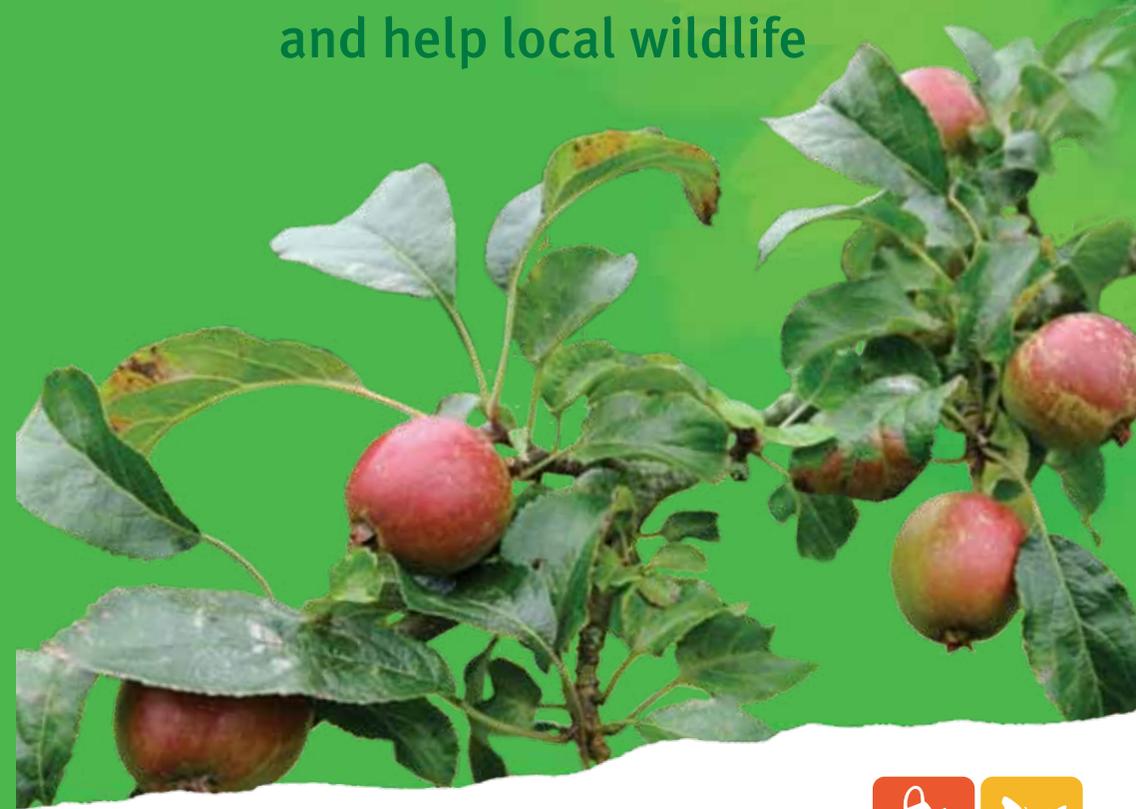
Orange Pippin www.orangepippin.com

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk

The Royal Horticultural Society www.rhs.org.uk

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Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland

FSC



2010 International Year of Biodiversity



garden for orchards

and enjoy nature's fruits

Fruit trees

Planting new trees? Why not include some old Scottish varieties?

Wildlife shelter

Stack some deadwood and prunings into piles at the edge of your orchard to provide a home or shelter for wildlife.

Products

Reduce the use of chemicals to a bare minimum and use organic products and methods where possible.

Old trees

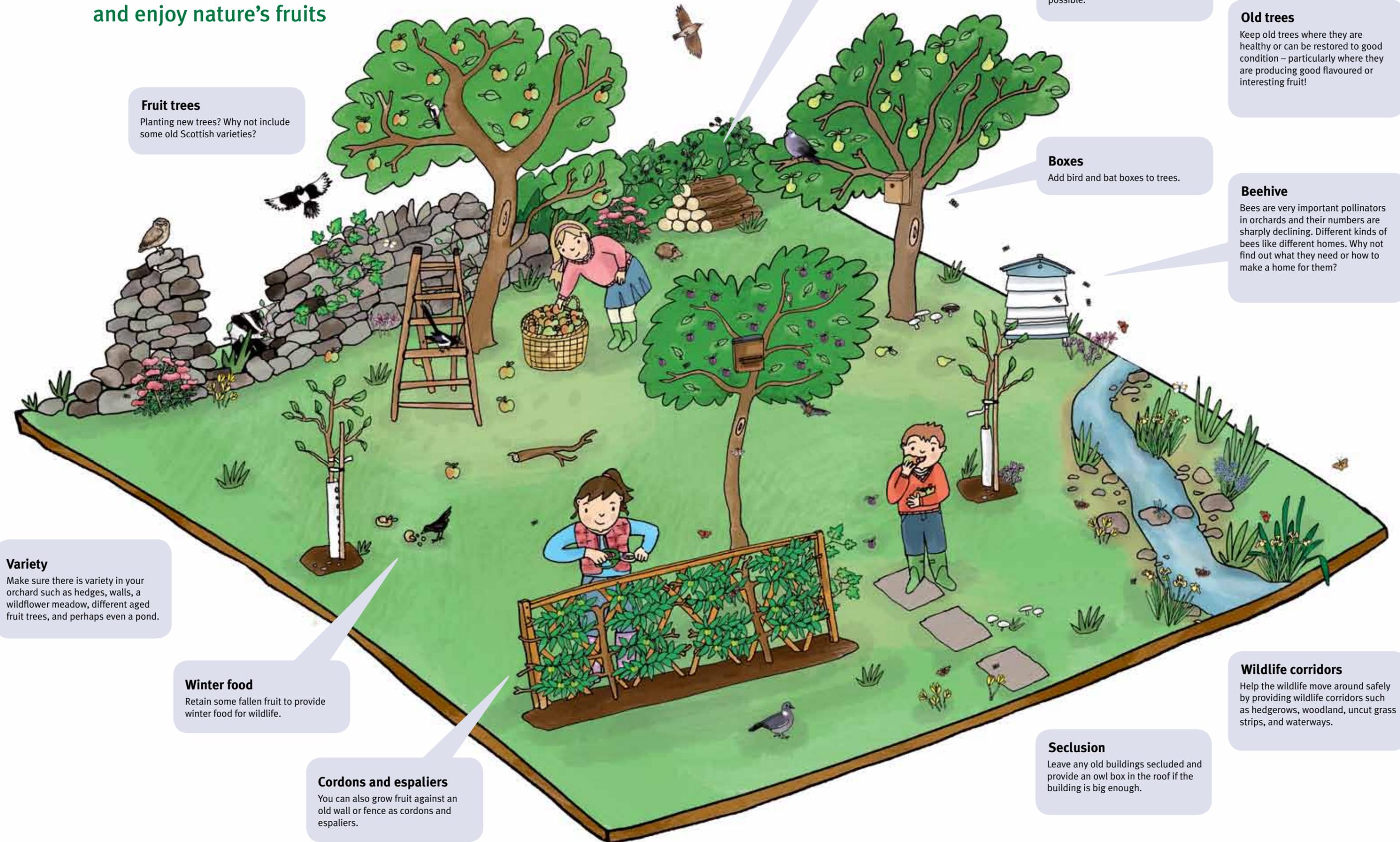
Keep old trees where they are healthy or can be restored to good condition – particularly where they are producing good flavoured or interesting fruit!

Boxes

Add bird and bat boxes to trees.

Beehive

Bees are very important pollinators in orchards and their numbers are sharply declining. Different kinds of bees like different homes. Why not find out what they need or how to make a home for them?



Variety

Make sure there is variety in your orchard such as hedges, walls, a wildflower meadow, different aged fruit trees, and perhaps even a pond.

Winter food

Retain some fallen fruit to provide winter food for wildlife.

Cordons and espaliers

You can also grow fruit against an old wall or fence as cordons and espaliers.

Wildlife corridors

Help the wildlife move around safely by providing wildlife corridors such as hedgerows, woodland, uncut grass strips, and waterways.

Seclusion

Leave any old buildings secluded and provide an owl box in the roof if the building is big enough.



Whether you have a couple of fruit trees or a small orchard, this can be a wonderful space for people and wildlife. You can enjoy the blossoms in the spring and the delicious fruits in the autumn while providing food and shelter for a wide range of creatures.

Orchards don't need constant tending so they can be wilder and quieter than other garden areas. The wide tree spacing means that they are sunnier than woodlands and they often include a variety of other features such as hedgerows, deadwood, old walls, meadow, ponds or streams,

as well as other plants. This combination of different types of habitat in a relatively undisturbed space means that orchards can support a huge variety of different animals and plants.

Orchards can be rich in mosses, lichen, fungi and wildflowers, and can support a whole range of insects, including bees, that are crucial for pollination of the fruit. They can be a great place for spotting butterflies and birds. You can look out for owls, woodpeckers and treecreepers in the hollow branches of tree trunks, and the insects and grubs can be a feast for flycatchers, tits, chaffinches and thrushes. The blossom may attract bullfinches in the spring and the fallen fruit can be a food for blackbirds in the winter months.



A few tips on planting fruit trees

Taste – There are many different varieties of fruit, particularly apples, and each has its own distinct taste. Make sure you like the taste of the fruit before you plant the tree! Once planted, the tree will be there for many years.

Buy – Get the right tree for you (taste) and for your garden (consider size, disease resistance, pollination, and whether it will suit the planting site). Buy a good quality tree from a reputable dealer.

Space – Keep in mind how big the tree will grow and how much space you need round and under the tree. There is a wide range of sizes of fruit tree available and they can also be trained to grow across a wall as a cordon or espalier.

Position Fruit trees need plenty of light and shelter from strong winds and frost.

Planting & aftercare – If you know how to plant your tree correctly and how to look after it you are much more likely to have a healthy tree with a good crop of fruit! Feeding, watering, and pruning are all important – but not difficult.

Wildlife – our orchard gardeners

Make your orchard an attractive place for all kinds of wildlife and nature will give you a hand to produce lots of healthy fruit. By encouraging many different kinds of insects you will have a higher proportion of useful insects to pests as well as many more pollinators.

Growing fruit in Scotland

Scotland has a very long history of fruit growing. There are over 40 varieties of known Scottish apples, some with wonderful names such as Red Devil, The Lass O'Gowrie, Scotch Dumpling, and The Bloody Ploughman.

The main types of tree fruit that can grow well here are pears, plums, damsons, gages and apples.

Fruit trees can be trained to grow as a single rope-like stem over a supporting structure such as a trellis or garden arch. They can also be grown in a fan shape on a south facing wall or fence. This is a good solution for small gardens.

Why grow fruit trees...

- Save money
- Healthy and delicious food
- Many fun products to make (jams, cider, pies, juices)
- Good for wildlife and the environment
 - 'Pick your own' and give some to your friends
 - Cheap and easy to grow
- Grown locally, reducing food miles
 - Fruiting in two or three years
- A beautiful and productive space to enjoy

