

Fun Friday Fledglings Craft

Water, Sand and Mud Stations for Wildlife

When we have dry summers, we can help wildlife in our gardens by creating these simple water, sand and mud stations for them. Take time to observe the different visitors to each station. Please note they may not visit straight away. Allow time for the wildlife to find them. Be patient.



You will need:

- Three shallow plant trays
- Flower pots, similar diameter to trays.
- Soil/compost
- Sand
- Rainwater
- Pebbles
- Pinch of Salt



Method

1. Collect materials for creating your wildlife stations.
2. Sand Puddle. A Nutrient rich Butterfly Puddling station: sand, compost, salt and rain water. Prepare a tray with some sand, add a handful of compost and sprinkle a pinch of salt, Mix together, then pour in some rainwater to create a damp squishy mix, place few pebbles around the edge. Insects will either land on the sand or the rocks. Rest the tray on top of a flower pot.



3. Squishy Mud station for solitary bees: compost/soil and rainwater. Prepare a tray with some soil/ compost, mix in some rainwater to create a muddy squishy texture. Add a few pebbles around the edge. The pebbles help bees to land on to the mud without getting their wings wet. Rest the tray on top of an upside down flower pot.



4. Rainwater station for wildlife: pebbles and rainwater.

Prepare a tray with some pebbles, and then pour in some rainwater, enough to fill up to the rim of the tray. Position the pebbles around the edge of the tray. The pebbles will help insects land and drink the water without getting wet. The pebbles around the edge leaves space in the centre this allows birds to have a bath. Rest the tray on top of a sturdy surface/upside down flower pot. This one is on top of a log.



5. Find a quiet spot for your wildlife stations around the garden. It is important not to move them afterwards as once the wildlife discovers them, they will be to return easily. Keep the stations damp or topped up with water.

Here the trays are placed on the edge of a meadow in the garden, where they are near a nectar source for the bees and butterflies. Be patient and observe the wildlife visiting.



Here is a solitary bee visitor to the sand puddle.



Have fun exploring nature in your garden or when you are out for a walk. Look for the different the creatures that live amongst the plants. Have a wonderful adventure everyday with nature.