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Fundacja Ekologiczna
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Good practice 7



Flowery meadows and traditional gardens



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Bees ask for help - a campaign to protect the living environment of bees and other pollinators financed within the framework of the Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

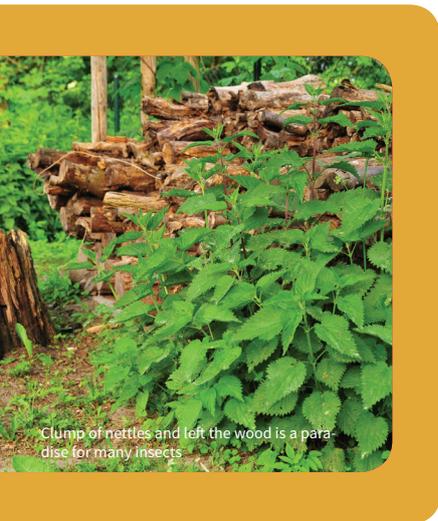




One embodiment of the naturalistic garden
 (Source: <http://wildflowerturfblog.wildflowerturf.co.uk>)



Green Lacewing is an ally for the gardener in the fight against aphids



Clump of nettles and left the wood is a paradise for many insects

Flowerly meadows and traditional gardens

Less and less space is left to nature through the development of civilization. These negative processes are particularly visible on the example of our nearest environment. 20 years ago natural meadows full of flowers, fruit trees and home gardens with vegetables were something common. Today, due to the enrichment of society it's easier to buy vegetables and fruits in the store than to grow it yourself. We have now more and cheaper gardening equipment - scythes, saws, mowers. In many arboretums and points of sale we can also buy a sophisticated species of decorative plants.

In the pursuit of convenience and the various fashions in place of the traditional gardens appeared ubiquitous thujas and instead meadows - regularly mowed lawns. Also in urban parks and gardens we have tidy and mowed lawns. Meanwhile, fallen leaves, if they are not attacked by pests and diseases, are an excellent fertilizer for trees are also a refuge for many animals. Similarly, devoid of flowers and regularly cut the lawn is not a friendly place for animals. We should consider whether the use of these costly treatments is everywhere necessary or perhaps limit it to areas with representative functions.

Fortunately, more and more people want to return to old traditions. The fashion for natural space returns even in cities. For now, mainly in Western Europe, but some changes are also visible in Poland. Gardens and squares full of flowers are not only full of life, they are also beautiful and friendly for a man. A good example of this type of business practice is one of the British companies that sells flower meadows in rolls (Wildflower Turf). Their projects can be found at <http://www.wildflowerturf.co.uk>.

What each of us can do?

- **Leaving the park and in the garden „half-wild” places**

The more wild plants, leaves, rotten wood and not cut grass in the garden, the better for the animals. Even ordinary clump of nettles is the site of the development of many caterpillars. Accordingly composed wild corners give the garden a lot of mysterious charm.

- **Instead of the ubiquitous thujas use blooming and nectariferous plants**

Flowering plants are not only beautiful but also provide nectar and pollen to insects. For planting in public spaces very well suited ornamental varieties of fruit trees. Beautiful and friendly for bees are also known plants of traditional gardens - mallow, heathers, Scutigermorpha and also lavender, Sparganium, bonesets (Eupatorium), loosestrife and herbs: marjoram, oregano, sage, mint, thyme, hyssop, etc. Perennials are increasingly used also in modern gardens.

- **In the fight against pests use a natural plant protection**

The use of natural methods of pest control allows to obtain food free of chemistry. It is also a good way to protect biodiversity in the garden. One of the natural methods of plant protection is adequate deployment of plants. Hawthorn flowers attract hoverfly whose larvae combat aphids, lavender stripped ants/snails and protects roses against aphids. If aphids attacks the plant you can spray it with decoction of nettles or common tansy. If, however you already use sprays do not perform treatments at too strong wind, to prevent the spraying of liquids over long distances. All treatments should be performed in the evening, after the end of the daily bee flight.

- **Take care of water for pollinators**

The best source of water for the insects is a damp moss or a pond with mild access to the water table. On the other hand, dangerous to bees are left bowls of water. Thirsty insects can easily slip down the steep edge of the dish and drown.

- **Create a shelter - „hotels” for pollinators**

Construction of houses will be described in the following good practices.



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