

GIVE A BUG A HOME!

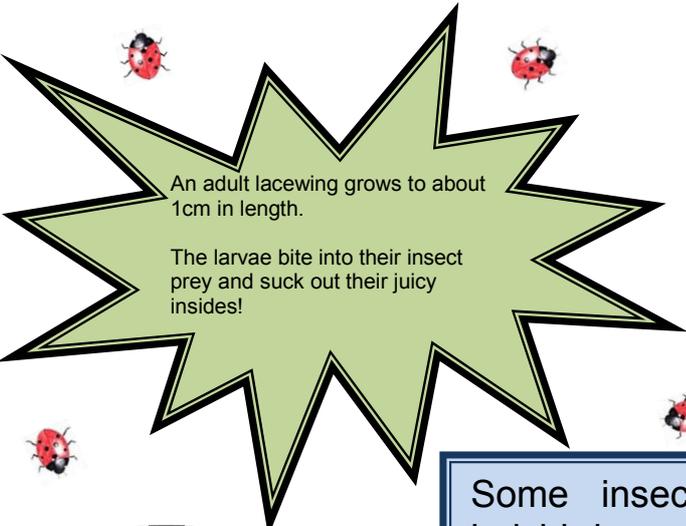


Minibeasts are an important part of any garden habitat. They encourage the decay of dead organic matter, help pollinate flowers, and are also a vital source of food for many other garden visitors, including small mammals and birds.



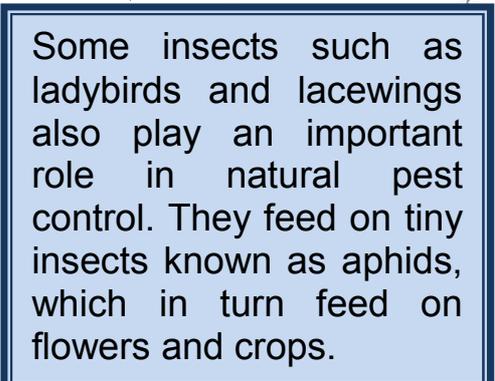
Ladybirds live for about a year.

During this time they can eat approximately 5000 aphids!



An adult lacewing grows to about 1cm in length.

The larvae bite into their insect prey and suck out their juicy insides!

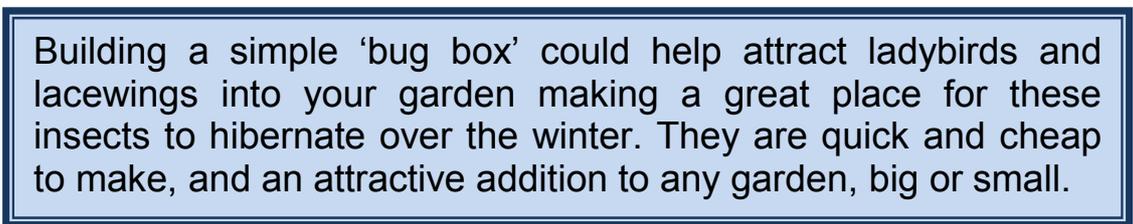


Some insects such as ladybirds and lacewings also play an important role in natural pest control. They feed on tiny insects known as aphids, which in turn feed on flowers and crops.



There are 500 species of aphid in the UK.

Sometimes called greenfly, they are between 1 – 7 mm in size.



Building a simple 'bug box' could help attract ladybirds and lacewings into your garden making a great place for these insects to hibernate over the winter. They are quick and cheap to make, and an attractive addition to any garden, big or small.

HOW TO MAKE A BUG BOX

(Adult supervision is advised whilst making the bug box.)

TOOLS

- A hammer
- A saw
- A drill

MATERIALS

- 6 nails about 20mm in length
- A section of log about 12cm long and 10cm in diameter
- 2 pieces of flat timber for the roof about 15cm x 15cm (A fence panel off cut is ideal)
- About 20 – 30 lengths of bamboo, 12cm long

Using a saw carefully remove approximately the top 1/3 along the length of the log. (**IMPORTANT!** With close adult supervision, this can also be achieved easily by gently placing the head of a small axe onto the end of the log in the correct position, and giving it a few sharp taps with a wooden mallet to split the log.)

Using 2 nails, attach the 2 roof pieces together to form a right angle. It may help to pre drill the holes to stop the wood from splitting. (Fig 1)

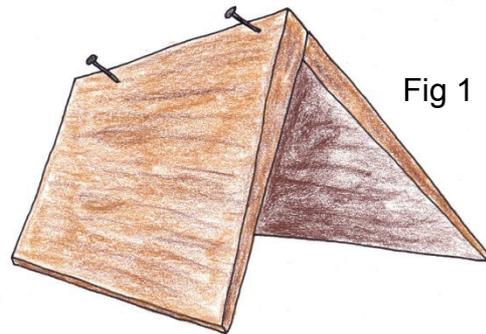


Fig 1

Take 2 more nails and attach the lower section of the roof to the log. Repeat on the other side of the log with the remaining 2 nails. Try to make one end of the roof section flush with one end of the log to make the finished box sit easier against a wall or fence. (Fig 2)

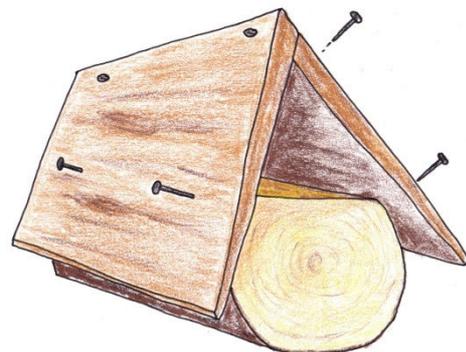


Fig 2

Fill the gap between the roof and the log with lengths of bamboo. Keep cramming them in until they wedge in firmly. Then carefully drill some more holes in the end of the log to create extra homes. (Fig 3)

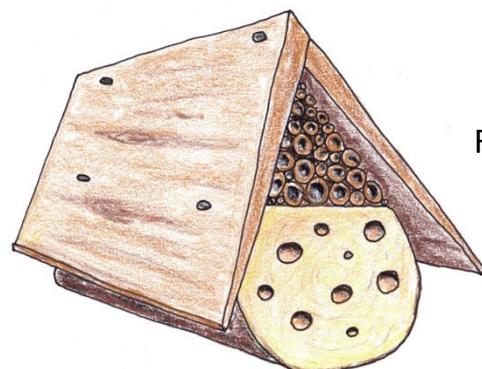


Fig 3

If you want to make an even simpler bug home, gather together 15-20 pieces of bamboo cane about 15cm long and tie them into a bunch with some string.



Alternatively, cut the bottom off a plastic drink bottle, roll up a length of corrugated cardboard and insert it into the bottle. Secure it in place with a couple of paper clips. Remember to leave the lid on the bottle to keep the rain out!

Hang your bug box on a sheltered wall, fence or tree, out of the wind and rain about 1 -2 metres off the ground and let the bugs investigate!