

SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY AT HOME

Use these tips to support biodiversity and nature at home.

1 Plant a range of native species.

Native species are adapted to local climate conditions, making them hardy, low maintenance, and great sources of food and habitat for local pollinators and wildlife. Backyard gardens or balcony planters both work well!

2 Remove invasive plant species.

Invasive plant species outcompete native plant species for resources and can quickly spread throughout natural systems.

3 Manage stormwater and harvest rainwater.

Use a rain barrel to collect water from downspouts for a free source of water for your garden, and to reduce local flood risk.

4 Use natural pesticides and fertilizers.

Avoid toxic chemicals in your garden by using natural pesticides such as hot water or vinegar and natural fertilizers such as compost.

5 Install a bird feeder or bee hotel.

Bird feeders and bee hotels provide important sources of food and shelter for important pollinators.

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Use these resources to support biodiversity and nature at home.

ACTION	BENEFITS	RESOURCES
Plant a range of native species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports local pollinators and wildlife ▪ Low maintenance ▪ Hardy, resilient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In The Zone for gardening resources, tracking your impact, and connecting with others ▪ Ontario Native Plants to purchase native wildflowers, grasses, trees, edible fruit, and shrubs ▪ Bloom-in-box garden kits for grouping of native plants from Reep Green Solutions
Remove invasive plant species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protects native species from spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ontario Invasive Plant Council for resources to identify invasive species and native or non-invasive alternatives ▪ EDD Maps to report and track native species in Ontario
Manage stormwater and harvest rainwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduces flood risk ▪ Rain barrels provide source of water for gardens and indoor plants ▪ Rain gardens provide source of food and habitat for pollinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rain barrels or soakaway pits to collect rainwater from downspouts ▪ Rain gardens to collect rainwater from downspouts and support pollinators/local wildlife ▪ Permeable pavement to allow rainwater to permeate back into ground
Use natural pesticides and fertilizers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect local pollinators and wildlife against ingesting toxins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make your own natural herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers
Install a bird feeder or bee hotel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides food and shelter for important pollinators ▪ Adds visual interest to outdoor space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make your own bird feeders or bee hotels