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22. February 2019

LIVELY GARDEN: PRESERVING BIOLOGIC DIVERSITY



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“If the bee disappeared, man would only have four years left to live.” Albert Einstein’s quote repeatedly arises in the media. It seems as if the warnings of researchers, scientists and beekeepers have finally reached the mainstream of society. In more than 70 studies it became evident that half of all insect species have decreased. No wonder you read about it daily. The reason is that it affects us personally, because one third of our food depends on the pollination of bees. But not only the bees and insects are threatened, also many other animal and plant species are threatened with extinction. The worst thing about it is we often cause species extinction – be it harmful chemicals, poachers or adventive animals and plants spreading invasively displacing native species. A good thing, however, is that we can make a positive contribution alike, starting in our gardens. We will show you how you can protect biodiversity in your own garden. 😊



BIRDS' TWITTERING RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Not all bird species migrate to the South during the cold season and often fight for survival in winter. Due to climate change more and more species hibernate in our climate. You can help them with bird fat balls, grains, raisins, dried berries and ripe apples or pears. Natural food sources available throughout the year are important, though – especially with regard to the diminishing of insects. The birds are most helped by planting native shrubs, as the birds' diet is adapted to the local ecosystem, as can be found at the [Zeavola Resort](#) on Koh Phi Phi. Moreover, there are distinct protection zones during the breeding season for the birds' rest. Supplying water is often neglected, even though water is as important as food sources: at the [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel](#), water bowls hang in the trees and supply the garden dwellers with sufficient liquid. You can easily set up a small bowl and refreshing the water daily in your own garden or on the terrace. By the way, adding a few stones in the bowl, you can build a nice bird and insect pool. Check out our [Pinterest](#) board for inspiration!



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COLORFUL PATCHES

Undoubtedly, we love colorful flowerbeds! However, often exotic plants and flowers decorate these beds avoiding native animals to use them. By planting native plants, you can support them in their search for food. Special seed mixtures for bee-friendly and insect-friendly meadows make it even easier. Or how about a fruit and vegetable patch growing old species, like the [Bio-Agrivilla i pini](#) does? Old species are not or less modified through cultivation. Since they come from your region, they are perfectly adapted to the climate and therefore more resistant. An interesting fact: Some persons suffering from an apple allergy tolerate old varieties. Just another reason cultivating an "old" orchard 😊

HIDEAWAY BETWEEN TERRACE AND HEDGE

Make your garden an oasis for wildlife! Create shelter for the four-, six- and eight-legged animals! In the garden of the [Agrivilla i pini](#) there are nesting places for bats, insect hotels, stone heaps, hedges and "chaotic" corners such as branch heaps and long grass, offering protection to animals. On the roof of the [SCHWARZWALD PANORAMA](#), birds also find a secluded nesting place and designated quiet zones at the [Zeavola Resort](#). Maybe there's also a secluded corner in your garden you may leave to our feathered friends?

By the way: Many veterinarians treat wild animals free of charge. So, if you find a little hedgehog in autumn or an injured bird, grab a shoebox with air holes and take them to the medical treatment! Though, hedgehogs should only be taken there if they are obviously at risk, e.g. due to malnutrition.





Native orchid in Peru © Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel



Bee hives and bird house © SCHWARZWALD PANORAMA



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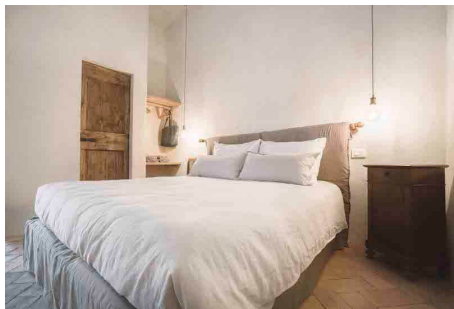
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Often, you are asked to use your towels several

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