

How Does Your Garden Grow?...

BUILD BIODIVERSITY

Quite simply, biodiversity means the variety of life on earth. Think of it as a web: the more links and strands of connection there are, the stronger the whole web becomes. It's the same for the green garden: with a variety of plants and life forms, the garden as a whole is stronger, healthier and more resilient.

- ❁ Biodiversity begins below the ground - a healthy soil teeming with diverse microorganisms. The best thing you can do to contribute to the life of the soil is to add compost and lots of it. Compost is full of beneficial bacteria and microorganisms that create a healthy, living soil.
- ❁ Monocultures, such as lawns or the same vegetable crop planted year after year in the same place, are an invitation to infestation! Rotate vegetable crops by planting them in different places within the garden bed each year.
- ❁ Plant a variety of different species throughout the flower garden, aiming, in particular, for a variety of blooming times, from spring through fall. This way, your biodiverse green garden will meet the needs of a variety of wild creatures - the plant biodiversity will encourage animal biodiversity, too.
- ❁ Avoid the use of synthetic chemicals in the garden, which destroy good bugs along with bad. See Info Sheet #3.
- ❁ Keep a list of all the diverse creatures that visit your green garden - you'll be amazed by the amount of life buzzing in your yard!