

Corridors

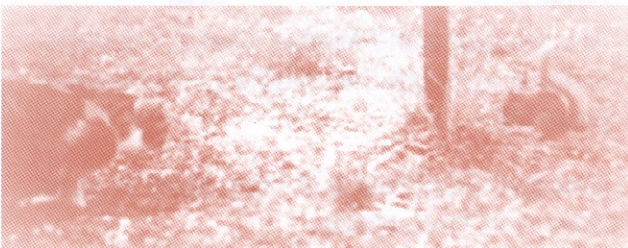
If squirrels must cross open ground to reach your feeder, a rope strung across to the nearest tree could provide a safe aerial routeway. Corridors are important as red squirrels are essentially a tree-living animal and are vulnerable to attack when on the ground. If possible plant trees to form a corridor between squirrel areas and leave your hedges uncut.

Hazards

Cats and dogs are the biggest hazards met by squirrels in the garden. *Do not encourage squirrels into your garden unless you are sure your pets will not bother them!*

Garden troughs and water butts are also dangerous as squirrels fall in and then cannot get out because of the slippery surface. Make sure the butt is well covered - they can squeeze through the smallest holes. Attach a rope to the side of the trough so that squirrels can use it to get out.

Garden netting is also a hazard as squirrels and other wildlife can get caught.



Look out for Red Squirrels

Wight Squirrel Project is keen to know if you have squirrels in your garden or if you see one when you are out and about in the countryside or around the town. The project is also keen to hear from you if you would like to become a Squirrel Recorder and help with collecting vital information on this charismatic and rare woodland mammal.

**REMEMBER:
THE ISLAND IS ONE OF THE
FEW PLACES IN BRITAIN
WHERE RED SQUIRRELS ARE
THRIVING - LET'S HELP KEEP IT
THAT WAY!**

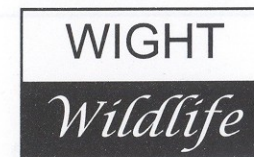
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WIGHT
SQUIRREL
PROJECT

Red Squirrels in your Garden



**PRACTICAL HELP FOR
THE ISLAND'S RARE
WOODLAND MAMMAL**

About this leaflet

Red Squirrels are the only squirrels native to Britain and are disappearing from the mainland fast.



This leaflet gives gardeners and landowners advice on how they can attract red squirrels into their gardens and help them to survive the hazards of the modern world.

Why are they disappearing?

The Red Squirrel suffered from a disease outbreak at the beginning of the 20th century and this, combined with the success of the introduced American Grey Squirrel, has pushed them close to extinction.

Why is the Island important?

The Island is free from both the disease parapox, and grey squirrel that are causing so many problems on the mainland.



Also, the woodlands they live in are not affected by deer that eat young trees and shrubs which the squirrels need.

What can we do to help?

PLANT TREES

If you have squirrels in your garden or you own a wood, planting trees will provide a valuable source of food and bring more squirrels into the garden.

Suitable trees for gardens

Hazel
Elderberry
Hawthorn
Sweet chestnut
Walnut
Dogwood
Guelder rose
Cherry
Wayfaring tree
Crab apple

Suitable trees for woods

Scot pine
Hazel
Corsican pine
Sweet chestnut
Oak
Ash
Beech
Crab apple
Wild cherry
Field maple
Hornbeam

Feeding Squirrels

Many people have squirrels visiting their garden and feeding them in times when natural food is short helps their survival and provides hours of entertainment for you and your family. Food may be put out any time of year but squirrels usually disappear from gardens between August and December because their natural food is abundant.

- The most important time of the year to provide this food is in the spring and summer when seeds and berries are scarce and hoards of nuts have been eaten.
- Most people feed good quality peanuts but hazelnuts, filberts, coconut and fruit are also eaten. Try adding carrot as this is high in calcium and supplements a diet of peanuts.
- **ALL FOOD MUST BE FRESH** as squirrels suffer from digestive problems and may even die if food is stale or poor quality.



- Always place the feeder near an escape route and avoid the middle of the lawn if possible
- Beware! Squirrels will bury food in your lawn and flowerbeds.