



A3 I Lacewing hotel



As the weather starts to turn colder, insects and other creatures in your garden will be looking for places to shelter. The following shows you how to make a simple hibernation home for lacewings from a plastic drink bottle. Lacewings can eat up to 10,000 aphids in their lifetime, just the sort of help that the organic gardener needs!

Resources

- Plastic bottle with lid
- Corrugated cardboard
- Straw
- Thin wire or twig
- String
- Ruler and hole punch

Top tip



Waiting for uptake

- Adult lacewings are attracted by lights, so it may be beneficial to place the hotels near house windows.
- Put the lacewing hotels in place by the middle of August, as this is when the insects start looking for shelter.

Activity

- 1 Follow the instructions on the next page, adapting to the materials available.
- 2 Discuss the importance of providing habitats for lacewings and how they help organic gardeners.

Extended activity

- 1 Research the life cycle of lacewings and preferred natural habitats at each stage. Make posters and present your findings to the school, parents and members of the community at your garden events (see A2).
- 2 Find out about other beneficial insects that are important to organic gardeners.

Health & Safety

When using scissors younger children will need adult help. Take care once the base of the bottle has been cut as the edge may be sharp.

See also Health and Safety Guidelines (Section B3.3)

Further information

A2 Organising a gardening day
A28 Friend and foe game
A29 Ladybird house
A30 Apple bird feeder
B5.10 Controlling pests and diseases
B5.11 Attracting wildlife

Instructions for building a lacewing hotel

- 1** Cut the base off the plastic drink bottle. Leave the lid on to prevent water getting in. Using a hole punch, make two small holes, one at each side of the base of the bottle.
- 2** Cut a piece of corrugated cardboard to fit the height of the bottle, leaving a 1 cm gap at the bottom. Roll it up and put inside. To make it extra cosy for the lacewings, place a small amount of straw between some of the gaps, but don't fill them too tightly.
- 3** Push a piece of thin wire, a twig or some string through the holes at the base, to keep the cardboard in place.
- 4** Tie string around the neck of the bottle to form a loop.
- 5** Hang the hotel from branches of trees, shrubs and hedges or against fences at about head height.

