



PLANT FOR BIODIVERSITY



INTRODUCTION

Planting for biodiversity is one of the most visible and rewarding actions a football club can take to support nature. Whether through native trees, flowering hedgerows, wildflower areas, shrubs, planters or pollinator-friendly flower beds, thoughtful planting can transform Club grounds into valuable habitats for wildlife while enhancing the appearance of facilities.

Across Wales, pollinators and other wildlife are facing increasing pressures from habitat loss, climate change and land use change. Football Clubs have an important opportunity to help reverse these trends by creating and enhancing habitats within their grounds.

This resource provides practical guidance to help Clubs plant for biodiversity and contribute to a more sustainable future for football in Wales.

This resource will support your Club to:

- Understand how planting can support biodiversity.
- Select suitable trees, shrubs and flowers for Club grounds.
- Create habitats for pollinators and other wildlife.
- Improve the appearance and environmental value of Club facilities.
- Support local and national biodiversity priorities.
- Develop biodiversity projects that engage volunteers and the wider community.





BENEFITS

Why Plant for Biodiversity?

Planting can provide a wide range of environmental benefits. Even small planting projects can make a significant difference when combined across football Clubs throughout Wales.

Well-designed planting schemes can:

- Provide food for pollinators throughout the year.
- Create shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife.
- Improve habitat connectivity.
- Enhance landscape quality and visual appeal.
- Increase climate resilience.
- Capture carbon and improve air quality.
- Improve well-being and create more attractive community spaces.



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SPECIES

Plant the Right Species in the Right Place

When planning biodiversity planting projects, focus on species that are well suited to local conditions.

A smaller number of carefully selected species often delivers greater benefits than large-scale ornamental planting.

Priority should be given to:

- Native Welsh species.
- Pollinator-friendly plants.
- Climate-resilient species.
- Species that provide year-round wildlife benefits.

Avoid planting invasive non-native species or varieties that provide little value for wildlife.





TREE PLANTING

Plant Native Trees

Native trees are among the most valuable biodiversity features a Club can introduce.

Trees provide:

- Nectar and pollen.
- Nesting habitat and Shelter.
- Food for birds and insects.
- Shade and cooling benefits.

The following species are particularly valuable:

Early Spring Pollinators

- Goat Willow.
- Grey Willow.
- Wild Cherry.

Spring Flowering Species

- Hawthorn.
- Crab Apple.
- Rowan.

Multi-Benefit Species

- Oak.
- Silver Birch.
- Alder.
- Hazel.





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TINY FOREST

Create Small Native Woodlands

Not every Club has space for large woodland areas, but many have opportunities to create small clusters of native trees.

Even a small woodland planting area can provide significant biodiversity benefits while creating an attractive feature for Club members and visitors.

Potential locations include:

- Field boundaries.
- Club entrances.
- Unused corners.
- Areas behind goals.
- Walking routes.
- Car park edges.





HEDGEROW PLANTING

Plant Native Hedgerows

Native hedgerows are one of the most effective ways to support biodiversity.

A diverse hedgerow can provide:

- Food throughout the year.
- Wildlife corridors.
- Shelter.
- Nesting habitat.

Recommended Native Hedgerow Mix

A biodiversity-rich hedgerow could include:

- Hawthorn.
- Blackthorn.
- Hazel.
- Dog Rose.
- Rowan.
- Holly.
- Elder.
- Field Maple.
- Spindle.
- Wild Cherry.

A mixture of species creates greater ecological value than a single-species hedge.





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FLOWER BEDS

Create Pollinator-Friendly Flower Beds

Traditional flower beds can become valuable pollinator habitats when planted with suitable species.

Focus on:

- Long flowering periods.
- Open flowers accessible to insects.
- Native and wildlife-friendly varieties.
- Perennial plants that return each year.

Perennials are often more cost-effective and lower maintenance than annual bedding displays.





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POLLINATOR PLANTS

Make Containers and Planters Wildlife Friendly

Many Clubs have limited planting space around buildings.

Planters, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes can still provide valuable habitat.

Suitable locations include:

- Clubhouse entrances.
- Spectator areas.
- Outdoor seating spaces.
- Café and refreshment areas.
- Reception and welcome areas.

Visible pollinator planting can also help raise awareness among members and visitors.



SEASON PLANNING

Provide Food Throughout the Year

One of the most effective ways to support wildlife is to ensure flowers are available across multiple seasons.

Early Spring

Important species include:

- Willow.
- Crocus.
- Snowdrop.
- Lungwort.
- Primrose.

Late Spring

Important species include:

- Hawthorn.
- Wild Cherry.
- Bluebell.
- Red Campion.

Summer

Important species include:

- Knapweed.
- Oxeye Daisy.
- Lavender.
- Marjoram.
- Bird's Foot Trefoil.

Autumn

Important species include:

- Ivy.
- Sedum.
- Michaelmas Daisy.
- Devil's Bit Scabious.

Providing flowers throughout the year helps support pollinators during periods when food is often scarce.





POLLINATOR HOTSPOTS

Create Pollinator Hotspots

Clubs do not need to transform entire sites to achieve positive outcomes.

Small pollinator hotspots can be created through:

- Wildflower patches.
- Flowering borders.
- Native shrub planting.
- Pollinator planters.
- Wildlife gardens.

Several small areas across a site often deliver greater benefits than a single isolated planting area.





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CONNECTED HABITATS

Link Planting with Other Biodiversity Features

Planting projects are most effective when connected with wider biodiversity actions.

Consider linking planting with:

- Wildflower meadows.
- Native hedgerows.
- Long grass areas.
- Ponds and wetlands.
- Nature trails.
- Bird and bat boxes.

Creating connected habitats helps wildlife move safely around Club grounds.





COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Involve Your Club Community

Planting projects provide excellent opportunities for community engagement.

Consider involving:

- Mini, junior and youth teams.
- Volunteers.
- Local schools.
- Community groups.
- Environmental organisations.
- Sponsors and partners.

Community planting days can help build awareness while creating a stronger connection between people and nature.





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MONITORING SUCCESS

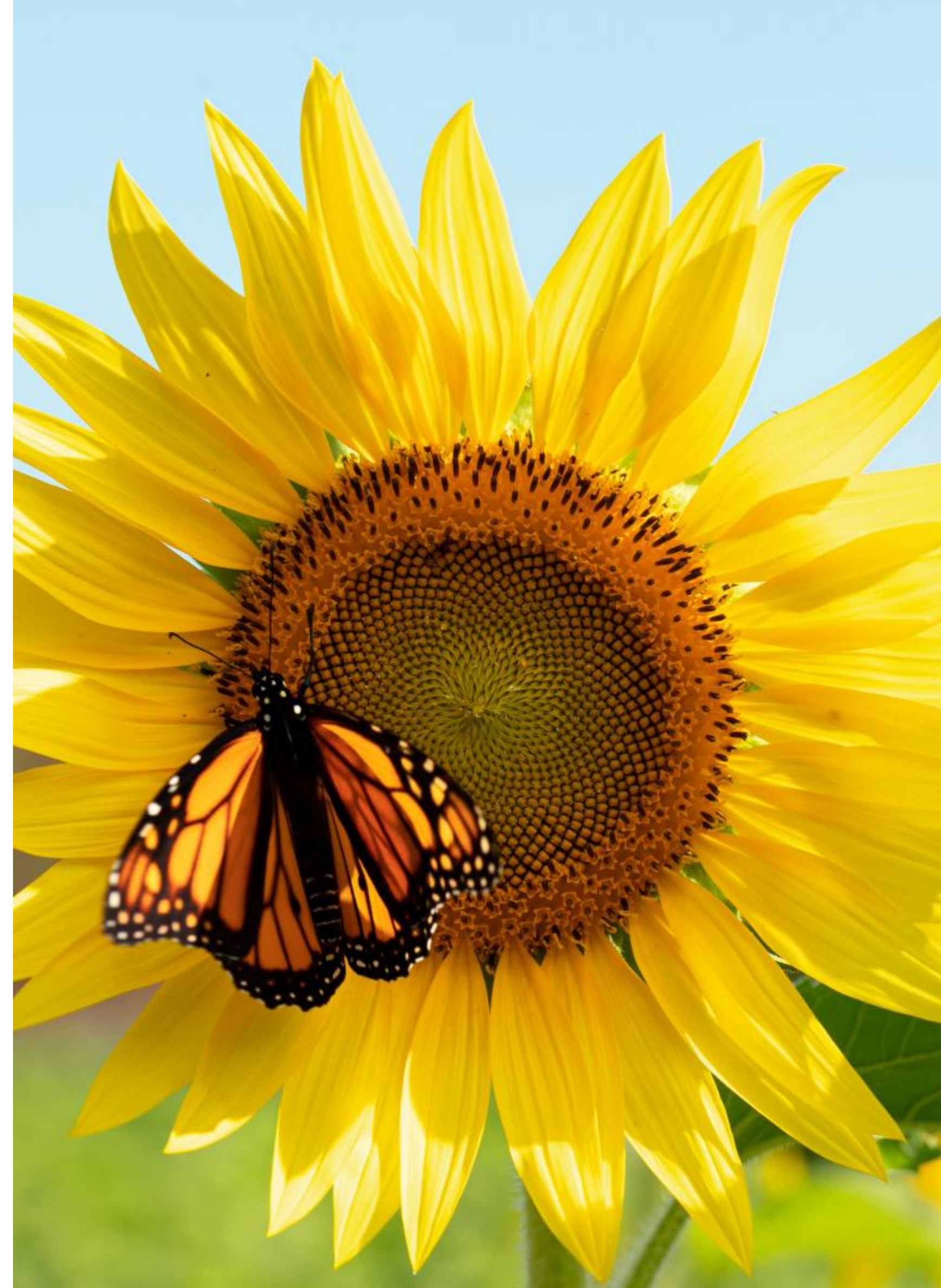
Monitoring Success

After planting, monitor progress to understand the impact of your work.

You could record:

- Number of trees planted.
- Length of hedgerow created.
- Area of pollinator planting established.
- Wildlife observations.
- Volunteer participation.
- Community engagement activities.

Photographs taken annually can provide a simple way to track growth and demonstrate progress.





FURTHER SUPPORT

Planting for biodiversity is a practical and highly visible way for football Clubs to support nature recovery while creating more attractive and welcoming facilities. Whether through native trees, hedgerows, flower beds or pollinator planting, every action contributes to building healthier ecosystems and more resilient communities.

You do not need a large budget or extensive land to make a difference. Small, well-planned planting projects can deliver significant biodiversity benefits and inspire wider environmental action across your Club.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Inform one of your two mandatory Green Goals.
- Complete your Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Identify suitable planting opportunities across your site.
- Improve habitats for pollinators and wildlife.
- Engage members and volunteers in biodiversity projects.
- Create attractive and sustainable club environments.
- Support biodiversity recovery across Wales.

Even a single pollinator planter, native tree or flowering hedgerow can provide valuable habitat for wildlife and help create a greener future for football in Wales.

Further information on Biodiversity can be found at www.faw.cymru/TogetherGreener-biodiversity

If you require support with this resource, please contact sustainability@faw.cymru