



## **BADGER FRIENDLY PLANTS - PLANTING TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT BADGERS**

- ⌚ GRASS. If at all possible some areas should be mown regularly so that the grass is short enough for the badgers to find earthworms. Earthworms are their main food. The grass clippings should be kept on a nearby compost heap, to provide a useful supply of earthworms and invertebrates. There should also be areas of longer grass if possible to provide cover for possible prey such as short tailed field voles and wood mice.
- ⌚ ELDER. Badgers are said to enjoy elderberries.
- ⌚ BRAMBLE. Areas of bramble should be retained since badgers are very fond of blackberries.
- ⌚ TREES AND SHRUBS. Plantings around a badger sett could include any of the following British native trees, most of which produce fruit of some kind, together with low growing shrubs to provide badgers with some cover and privacy:
  1. Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)
  2. Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)
  3. Apple (*Pyrus malus*)
  4. Pear (*Pyrus communis*)
  5. Oak (*Quercus robur*) may be planted (though not in great quantity); in the longer term these provide acorns which are said to provide a valuable source of autumn food for badgers in years when the acorn crop is good.
  6. Blackthorn - (sloe) - *Prunus spinosa*
  7. Bird Cheery - *Prunus padus*
  8. Wild Cherry - *Prunus avium*
  9. Crabapple (wild) - *Malus sylvestris*
  10. Guelder Rose - *Viburnum opulus*
  11. Hazel - *Corylus avellana*
  12. Holly, Green - *Ilex aquifolium*

13. Mountain Ash - rowan - *Sorbus aucuparia*
14. Plum, Myrobalan - *Prunus cerasifera*
15. Hawthorn (Quickthorn) - *Crataegus monogyna*
16. Rose (Dog Rose) - *Rosa canina*
17. also Other Native Roses
18. Wayfaring Tree - *Viburnum lantana*

- ⌚ Planting bluebells (*hyacinthoides non scripta*) and pignut (*conopodium majus*) to provide edible bulbs and tubers, and in the case of bluebells fragrant bedding.
- ⌚ Herbicides should not be used when planting new trees (this is because voles often attack the roots of new trees, badgers like voles and so the herbicide will go pass up the food chain to the badger).
- ⌚ A water source is a good idea if there is a lack of water in the area. If you are creating a wildlife pond, please note.
- ⌚ that badger claws can damage the "plastic liners". Flat stones or pebbles etc. can be used to protect the edges of the plastic and should extend under the shallow water.
- ⌚ We can give contact details of badger group volunteers who are willing to help with ideas over the phone or when possible help with a visit. Please contact Badger Trust on 08458 287878 or [enquiries@badgertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@badgertrust.org.uk)

### **Suggestions from West Surrey Badger Group**

We have made plantings around artificial setts and have used indigenous fruiting trees like - hawthorn, crab apple, rowan (mountain ash), elder, etc. Nut trees can be used especially hazel which will give mid-height cover and can be coppiced if desired. It is also a good idea to under plant with some low cover using low growing shrubs, and ferns, rather than bracken which may take over the area - etc. If the site is right, and if access to the sett is not expected on a regular basis, then blackberry and holly can be used which will eventually afford some protection for the sett from uninvited guests. Both of these plants can be cut back to re-grow if desired. If the site is large enough a large tree such as an oak or chestnut (which can also be coppiced if desired) could be included in the vicinity of the sett.

We prefer to use indigenous and, if possible, wild varieties of these plants where the sett is in a "natural or wild" site. Nevertheless if there is no need to only use wild plants any fruit tree would be appreciated by badgers because they love all orchard fruits and any raspberry canes or currant bushes!

The aim is to build up multi-level cover and at the same time provide the badgers with something to eat into the bargain. If you look at badger dung in the summer or autumn you will find the seeds of all the above fruit so we can vouch for the suitability for badger foraging.

Revised November 2008