

Insect tower

An insect or life tower creates a safe space and a home for small insects and other animals. They are often built with stones, wood, nest boxes, straw and branches.

The most towers are based on 3 to 5 meter high logs and 4 to 8 plateaus. The options for the filling are endless. We try to create as much living space for the insects in a small area as possible. Often nest boxes for cave breeders (birds which live in caves), for insect of every type and sometimes also hedgehogs are built in the towers.

Plant stems:

Probably the most popular materials are hollow plant stems. Wild bees and wild wasps are the most common insects which nest in bamboo, reed and other small tubes. To attract the bees and wasps often marrow rich plant stems like blackberry, raspberry, dog roses and thistles in different shapes and lengths are put between others. Marrow rich stems should be put vertical or diagonal in the plateaus without the opening visible so that the insects recognise them as such.

Hardwood:

Wild bees and wasps feel comfortable as well in drilled wood holes. Mostly leaf tree wood is used. Insects must sneak backwards in these nest holes in order to take the polls into the breeding cave. Because of this its important to clean up the holes. The holes should be parallel to the bark. After these steps are done, the wood is often laid between other plant stems.

Thin branches:

Butterflies feel comfortable in areas with thin branches. Fresh branches are best suited. The walls of the plateau should be covered by wooden plates with vertical slots. It's important that butterflies are sheltered from wind and weather because they have big wings.

Wooden wool, straw and fir cones:

Ladybirds, lacewings and catchy tunes nest in all of these three materials. Wooden wool is a natural padding. Lacewings live 6 to 12 weeks and also spend the winter as a fly. That's the reason why wooden wool is that popular. Lacewings are as well-known as golden eyes (at least in German) and are attracted by light. Red plateau walls are very attractive for them. Furthermore, wooden wool should be unprepared and is often filled in wooden nest blocks.

Catchy tunes like fresh straw. It creates the same effect as wooden wool, meaning they isolate. Insects can take care of their offspring and survive cold winters. This straw can be bought in nearly every specialist shop or farm. Pine and fir cones serve as a shelter opportunity and create safety for winter.

For birds we can assemble nest blocks and use the plateau on the bottom for hedgehogs. There can be collected wood and leaves where the hedgehogs can stay during the winter. Often stones are put in there as well to surround it.