



REPTILE-FRIENDLY GARDENS

Lizards and other small reptiles are an important part of any healthy ecosystem.

Native plants encourage reptiles and all kinds of native animals and insects. Lizards are naturally attracted to areas with vegetation and food sources that are familiar.

Different reptiles like different habitats so it is important to provide a variety of areas with different levels of ground cover. Providing areas of vegetation and shade as well as sparse areas with lots of sunlight will simulate a natural reptile habitat.

Food to be Found

It is important not to feed reptiles in your garden as they will find the food they need. A native garden with lots of vegetation will encourage insects for lizards to feed on.

Shelter

Lizards love having cracks and crevices to hide in, under and around. Rocks and logs can be used, but please don't take them from the wild. PVC pipes and holed bricks can also be used to provide shelter for reptiles in your garden.

Basking in the Sunlight

Lizards are ectothermic which means their body is warmed and cooled by their environment (not by their body). They need somewhere safe to sun themselves. Flat rocks, old tin or roofing tile provide fantastic surfaces for reptiles to bask on or under.

Drink it Up

Putting in a wet area, such as a pond, is a great way to encourage lizards to visit. As well as providing somewhere to drink, a wet area attracts frogs and insects.

Natural Litter

A small compost area filled with mulch, bark and leaf litter attracts reptiles. Make sure this area has good sunshine and is close to ground-cover so lizards can get to it stealthily whenever they want.

Composts also attracts insects and snails for reptiles to eat.

Watch Out!

Reptiles have natural predators around the garden. Birds are natural predators, but cats and dogs attack reptiles so try to create reptile-friendly areas in places your pets can't go (like the front garden).

No Chemicals

Avoid using chemicals and (non-organic) fertilisers in and around your garden as they may harm lizards. Lizards eat insects and snails, so if these are contaminated with pest-control pellets then lizards may become ill. Use environmentally friendly alternatives to get rid of your garden pests.

Local lizards you might see in your garden:

- Shingle-back Skink (*Tiliqua rugosa*)
- Western Blue-tongue (*Tiliqua occipitalis*)
- Burton's Legless Lizard (*Lialis burtonis*)
- Binoe's Prickly Gecko (*Heteronotia binoei*)
- Western Bearded Dragon (*Pogona minor*)
- Common Dwarf Skink (*Menetia greyii*)