

# What about the BUGS!?



**HOW TO DO A BUG FRIENDLY SPRING GARDEN  
CLEAN UP**



# 1. Wait for the weather

Many insects are still in diapause (a state similar to hibernation) and stay that way until the weather warms or the days get longer. These insects have been surviving in your gardens all winter long, and it's important to give them the time and weather to emerge. Wait for 10°C daytime temperatures that are consistent for 7 days.

# 2. Cut, bundle and tie

These insects will also be living in the hollow plant stems around your garden. When pruning these areas do one of two things: 1) leave the cut perennials and woody plant stems very loosely or spread out on your compost. 2) gather the stems and secure them with twine into small bundles, and then lean or hang those bundles around trees to allow the bugs room to emerge.



### **3. Be cautious when pruning and raking**

Many of the most beneficial insects are hidden within the leaves and branches of your garden. When pruning or raking keep an eye out for cocoons and chrysalises. Many insects hide within the leaf litter on your garden floors, so rake with caution!

### **4. Hold the mulch... for now**

Many beneficial insects and pollinators spend the winter in soil burrows as eggs, pupae, or adults and will need to emerge come spring. If you cover your gardens with mulch too early, it may block their way. Hold off until the soil dries out.