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*Scottish Gardeners' Forum*  
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*The Soil Association*  
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Scottish Allotments  
and Gardens Society

## Growing Scotland: biodiversity



Gardening contributes to the  
Scottish Executive agenda to improve  
the Nation's well being

# GARDENS AND GARDENING: BIODIVERSITY

## PROPOSED SUPPORTIVE CO-ORDINATED ACTIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

*'Biodiversity Strategy 2004 'increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity and engage many more people in conservation and enhancement'.*

There are over 300 gardening clubs, 250 allotment sites, 100 community farms and gardens in Scotland and their popularity is growing rapidly. All these associations contribute to biodiversity

### **ACTION**

**CONSULT** gardeners and gardening associations when formulating Biodiversity strategies.

### **Loss of Biodiversity:**

- Ponds are among the best habitats for wildlife but over 1 million have been lost in the last 100 years. The pond density in urban areas is now probably greater than that in rural areas
- Some of Scotland's butterflies and moths are in serious decline due to the destruction of their habitats. Gardens are becoming increasingly important in the conservation of some species.
- Species migration and climate change - the narrow urbanised area of the Central Belt could be a barrier to species migration

### **ACTION**

**LINK** local authorities, horticultural societies, schools and gardening associations in education and action.

**ENSURE** that gardens are recognized as important habitat for biodiversity

**ENCOURAGE** local authority biodiversity officers to work with local gardening groups and associations

*Gardens and gardening increase the overall well being of the Nation economically, physically and mentally. They could drive forward employment, health, communities, biodiversity, environment and education. This potential growth should be championed in a vision for Scotland's gardens.*

It is suggested that, within the time of this Parliament, **the First Minister** recognizes the importance of gardening to the well-being of the nation and instructs:

- a representative body to produce a strategy and action plan for a nationwide commitment to a gardening agenda.
- government agencies involved with employment and economic opportunities to assess the contribution the gardening sector could make to Scotland by improving the local environment, creating new business and making a real, practical difference to the urban and rural land-scape.
- the health service to recognise and promote the contribution gardening makes to health and well being.
- local authorities to make long term strategic provision for accessible gardening for local communities thus providing the means to implement the requirements of the planning regulations.
- councils, public agencies, professional bodies, education establishments, gardening societies to develop, in partnership, a range of policies which include the design and implementation of national and regional programmes of management, gardening skills and environmental research.