

# Top tips FOR stag beetles

Cover water butts

Minimise use of weed matting

Retain stumps

Tell us about stag beetles

Stop using chemicals

Escape route from ponds

Build a log pyramid

Take care when digging

Leave a wild corner

## Retain stumps

The single most important action for stag beetles is to keep stumps in place when trees or woody shrubs die or are cut down. This provides essential decaying wood underground for stag beetles.

## Escape route from ponds

This isn't just important for stag beetles - all animals need a way out of ponds. If you're planning a pond, ensure it has some shallow edges. If you already have a pond, a well-placed pile of stones or a log will help.

## Minimise use of weed matting

It can trap beetles underground. Use wood chip or bark instead to suppress weeds (and provide habitat for stag beetles!).

## Build a log pyramid

If you don't already have stumps or mature trees and shrubs, you can provide a home for stag beetles by building a log pyramid. Bury logs from a broadleaved tree upright in the soil, with up to 50cm under the ground.

## Cover water butts

Stag beetles can drown in water butts. If you do find one in a water butt, take it out and let it dry. Once recovered, they often fly off.

## Leave a wild corner

Great for so many species, leaving a small patch of your garden to go wild provides an undisturbed space where invertebrates and small mammals can shelter, nest or feed.

## Don't use chemicals

Pesticides and insecticides can be toxic to non-target species - it's best not to use them.

## Be careful when digging

Stag beetle larvae live underground. If you do dig some up, please re-bury them straight away with as much of the surrounding dead wood and soil as possible.

## Tell us about stag beetles

Record your sighting at [www.ptes.org/gsh](http://www.ptes.org/gsh) or go one-step further and carry out a garden stag beetle survey.

You can find out more about stag beetles, their life cycle, how to identify them and details for building a log pyramid by visiting [www.ptes.org/stagbeetles](http://www.ptes.org/stagbeetles)

