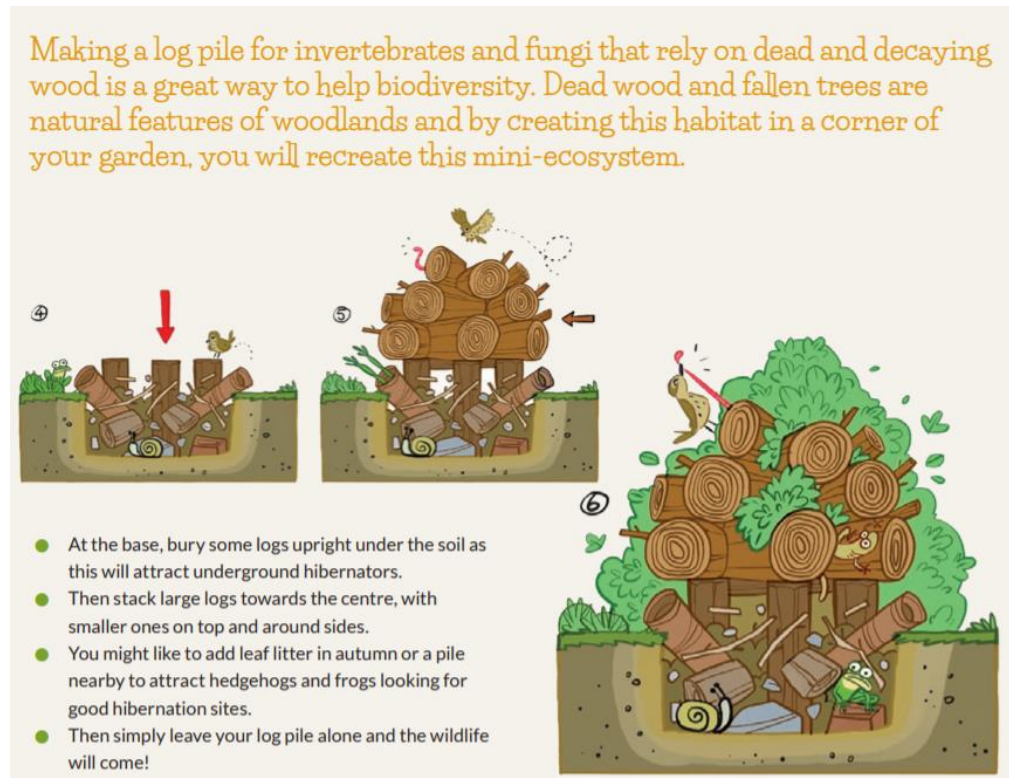


Appendix XII: Actions to help Hedgehogs

Logpile Hibernaculum:

A 'hibernaculum' is a place where an animal hibernates. Log piles with a dug out space underneath provide hibernation space for hedgehogs, insects, the Common lizard, frogs and are a source of insects to feed bats and birds.



Logpile and/or hedgehog hibernaculum. Extract from <https://laois.ie/wp-content/uploads/Garden-Wildlife-Booklet-WEB-17MB.pdf>

It is useful to place one of these log hibernacula in a compost corner as hedgehogs also love to hibernate under piles of leaves and compost piles. Generally compost corners are removed from footfall and near a boundary fence or wall so are ideal for hedgehogs.

Hedgehogs love to hibernate under compost. A small entrance 'door' at the base of a compost bin can be cut out to allow hedgehogs to enter and exit. Exercise caution when digging out compost to ensure that hidden hedgehogs are not harmed.

Appendix XII: Actions to help Hedgehogs



Compost pile in Bayside with a proposed 'hedgehog door' illustrated. Photo M. Stack.



Example of a wire compost bin to hold leaves. Cut hole at bottom to let hedgehogs in and out. Leaves break down over time as you can see in picture.

The Irish Hedgehog Survey commenced in 2021 and is being co-ordinated by NUIG. It would be great for the garden users to link in with other local groups also participating in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to complete a hedgehog survey. See <https://www.irishhedgehogsurvey.com/> for further information.