

Great tit

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape

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Nest-site necessities

This garden favourite loves nest boxes almost as much as blue tits, but likes bigger entrances of 28mm or more. Other nesting locations can include hollow fence posts to breed in, nesting sometimes a metre or more from the top.



Great tit / David Ball

Building materials

The female will need lots of moss for the construction of the nest base, garden hanging baskets lined with moss offer the perfect materials store. Other materials you could put out in your garden include pet hairs especially if you clean brushes out in the garden.

Chick care

Feed the adults so they can give the natural food they gather to the chicks. By planting native trees and shrubs you can help to attract invertebrates into your garden.



Great tits family in nest box

Special dietary requirements

Quite a lot of foraging is on the ground, and seeds are regularly taken by the adults. Chicks will come to peanuts hung in mesh baskets, black sunflower seeds and suet



Great tit / Daid Ball

Night shelter

In winter, great tits roost as individuals, in holes or crevices, but in summer, most (except breeding hens) roost within the foliage of trees, often high up.

The ideal territory

Despite being a woodland bird this species thrives in gardens, especially those with thick mature vegetation.

When it's all happening

Breeding starts in the last week of April, garden birds could be early – thanks to the marvellous food supply you give them.



Great tit / Darin Smith

Breeding Starts: March

Number of Clutches: 1-2

Number of Eggs: 7-15

Incubation Days: 13-14

Fledge Days: 16-22

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