Species of the Month

April — Hedgehogs

Conservation Communities - Torrington to Hatherleigh

Help build up a picture of the wildlife in our area by telling Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (www.dbrc.org.uk) about the species you have seen.



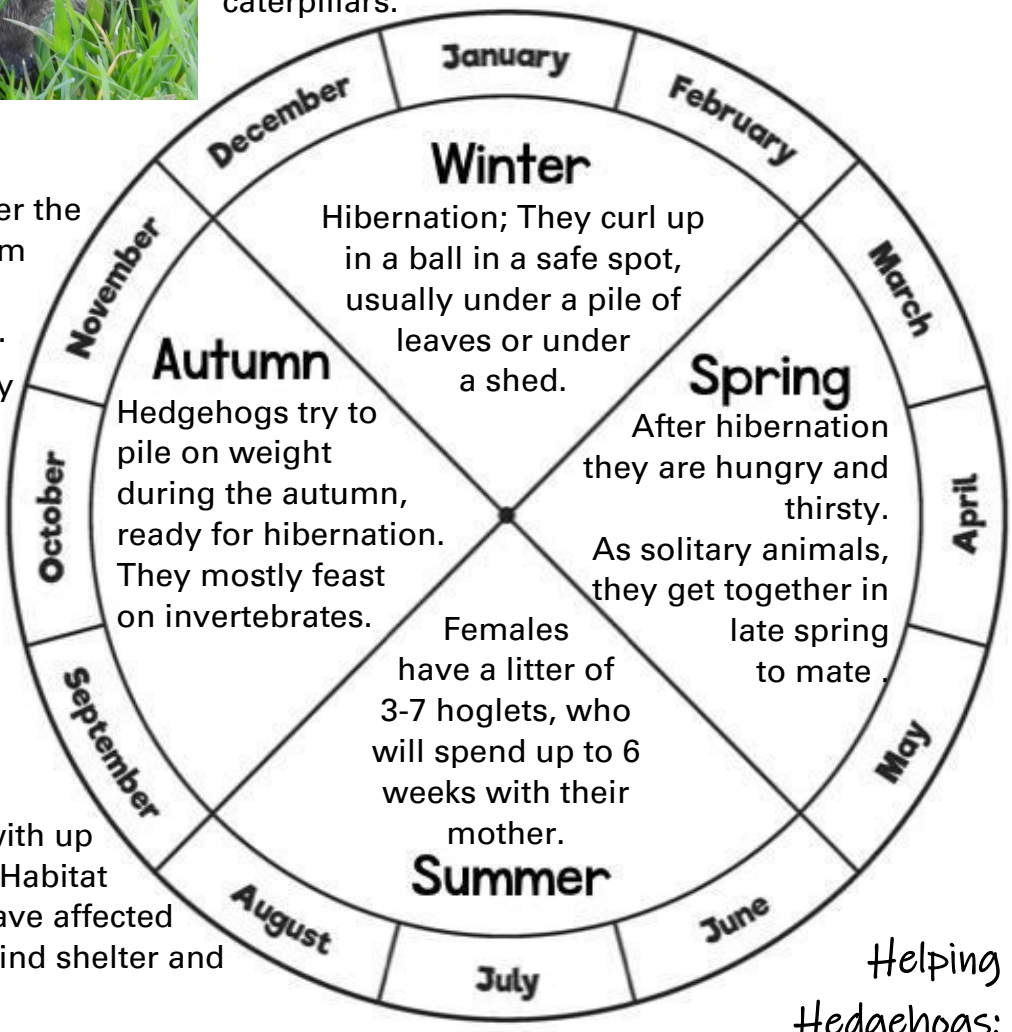
Hedgehogs are one of our most distinctive mammals. They are generally nocturnal, spending the daytime resting somewhere safe.

Hedgehogs can live for up to 7 years and can be found in a variety of habitats, including suburban gardens, woodland, farmland and parks.

They are known for eating slugs and snails but this only makes up 5% of their diet. They prefer to eat; beetles, earwigs, earthworms and caterpillars.

Did you know?

- The 5,000 spines that cover the hedgehogs back are 2-3 cm long and made of keratin, the same stuff as our hair.
- Hedgehogs have relatively poor eyesight and rely on their sense of smell and hearing to get around and find food.



Why DBRC need to know about hedgehogs in this area:

Over the last 20 years, hedgehogs have suffered a serious decline, with up to a 50% loss in rural areas. Habitat loss and use of pesticides have affected the ability of hedgehogs to find shelter and food.

The majority of DBRCs hedgehog records are from the 1980s, we would like to get an up to date picture of the hedgehog numbers, please tell us if you have seen one.

To find out more:

watch the Hedgehog Talk

Conservation Communities Project | Devon Wildlife Trust

Helping Hedgehogs:

Ensure your garden is hedgehog friendly by creating small gaps in fences and providing shelter for them. By encouraging invertebrates, you will be helping hogs too. To find out what you can do, visit DWT's Help the Hog page: https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-action/garden-wildlife/help-hog

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