Provide Water to Wildlife

Drought isn’t just tough on people. It can be stressful for animals, too. Do your part to help wildlife survive a drought by creating a water feature. Even a small amount of water can help animals out a great deal.

Birdbaths are an easy way to add a water feature to your landscape. They should be shallow, with textured bottoms and gently sloped sides. Keep them clean of algae with a plain textured sponge.

For a butterfly watering station, bury a saucer filled with pine bark or small stones, adding water to overflowing. Occasionally adding a piece of overripe fruit will provide salts and amino acids that butterflies need.

Small in-ground ponds or tub gardens don’t take that much water and can attract a variety of wildlife. Incorporate a filter and plants and see who comes to the watering hole.

If you’re worried about mosquitoes breeding in your water, just purchase some Gambusia fish, which feed on the larvae. You can also add the bacteria B.t. if your fish aren’t doing the job.

This public service announcement is brought to you by Gardening in a Minute. For more information about drought, visit Gardening in a Minute dot com or contact your University of Florida/IFAS county Extension office.