British Hedgehog Preservation Society

people's trust for endangered species



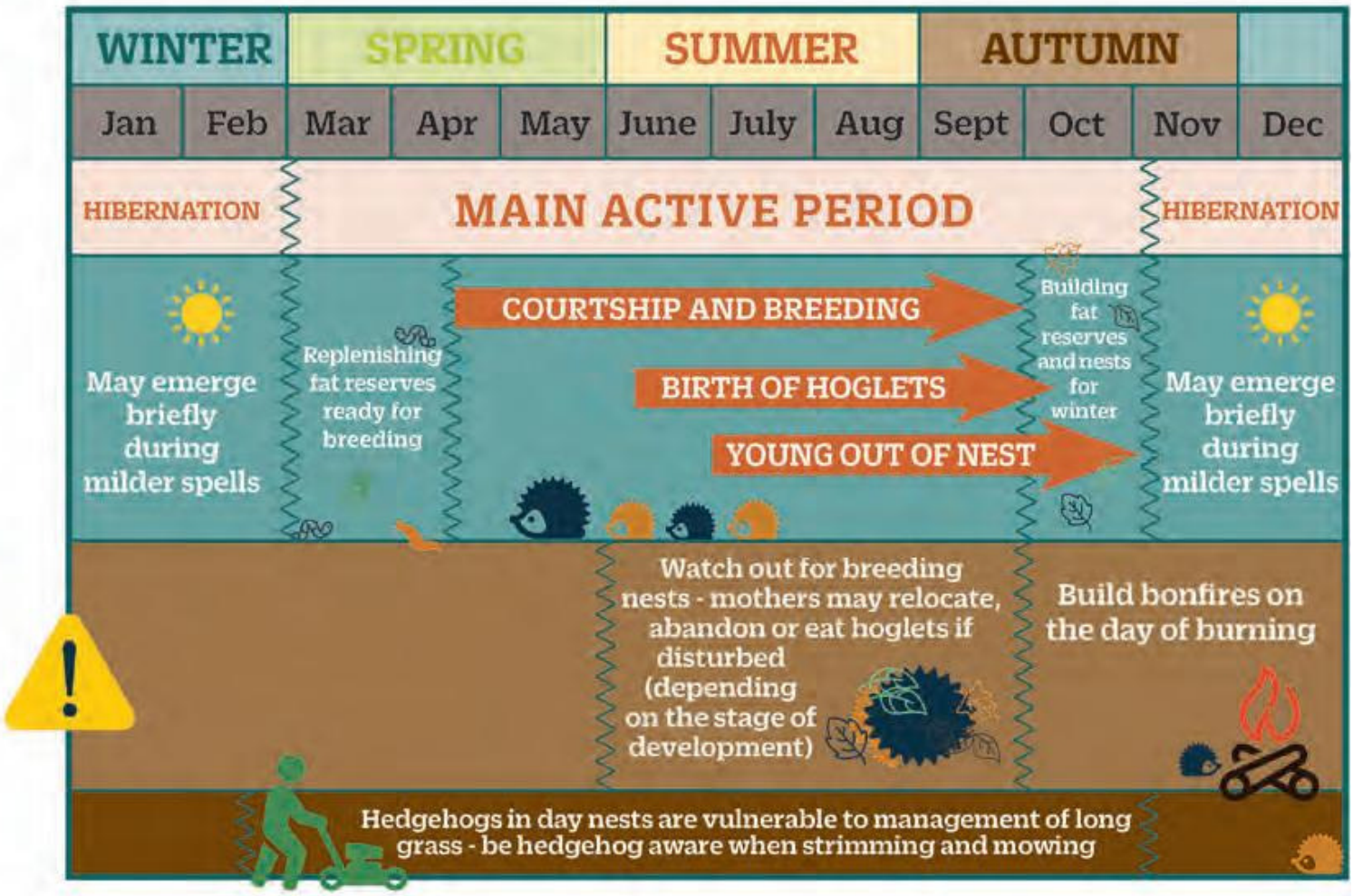
Hedgehogs and development

Hedgehog ecology and status

Hedgehogs are native and widespread across the UK. They require a mixture of habitats for foraging, nesting and mating, and a connected landscape.

Hedgehogs are currently rapidly declining, with at least a third lost from Britain since 2000 (*State of Britain's Hedgehogs Report, 2018*). They appear to be faring better in urban than rural areas, with those populations potentially improving. They are one of the few animals able to happily live alongside us, actually preferring gardens and amenity grassland habitats. Enhancing and connecting urban and suburban areas will help this struggling species to survive.

Hedgehogs are iconic and popular, voted Britain's favourite mammal several times. Publicising hedgehog-friendly features in your development can be highly beneficial.



Features of the build

Connectivity

Consider connectivity of the landscape, enabling ground-dwelling species such as hedgehogs to move around freely. Boundaries and barriers within and surrounding the development, including fencing, railing and gates, should be made permeable e.g.:

- through the use of fence panels with 13 x 13 cm holes at ground level (hedgehog holes)
- leaving a sufficient gap beneath gates
- leaving brick spaces at the base of brick walls

A variety of fence suppliers stock specific hedgehog-friendly fencing options, which can be easily incorporated at little or no additional cost. Hedgehog holes should be positioned to connect as much of the landscape as possible and can be mapped by your ecologist, or alternatively by contacting *Hedgehog Street* at **hedgehogs@ptes.org**



Similarly, where essential ground level changes may create barriers to movement (e.g. high kerbs, steps, terracing, sunken patios, gullies and drains), the landscaping should ensure sloped access/escape routes for ground-dwelling species.

