

WILD PATCH INFORMATION SHEET



Ponds

Create your Wild Patch

Water naturally attracts both amphibian and land-based wildlife. Ponds, especially those without fish, often teem with life such as dragonflies, snails, beetles, pond skaters, water boatmen, frogs, toads and newts.

Creating a watery habitat can be as easy as filling a container such as a washing-up bowl with water and aquatic plants. If you want something on a larger scale, then using a good quality liner or preformed shape is essential. There are many suppliers of pond equipment found online.

Siting

If possible your watery Wild Patch should be in an open area away from deciduous trees, although some shade is beneficial. Put it somewhere where you can get to it and enjoy it easily.

Planning

A shallow area at the edge of the pond enables wildlife to get in and out. A deep area will prevent the pond from freezing and allow the overwintering of water creatures and plants.



A 'Washing-up bowl' pond

Filling

Wait 1–2 weeks after filling your pond to allow the chlorine and fluoride to dissipate. Plants can be planted in special aquatic pots – or in vegetable or fruit net bags or baskets.

Planting

Aquatic plants will enhance habitats and provide places to lay eggs. In addition, some types even oxygenate the water and help balance the ecosystem of the pond. Plant around the pond too to create corridors to bridge

the gap between water and garden habitats.

Try and choose native plants as many non-native aquatic plants readily available from garden centres are invasive and will dominate the pond (see panel).

Continued on next page

Invasive non-native plants to avoid

- Australian Swamp Stonecrop/New Zealand Pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii* also known as *Tillaea recurva*
- Water Fern *Azolla Filiculoides*
- Parrot's feather/Brazilian watermilfoil *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
- Floating Pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
- Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
- Canadian Pondweed *Elodea canadensis*
- Curly (Canadian) Pondweed *Lagarosiphon major* or *Elodea crispus*
- Nuttall's pondweed *Elodea nutalli*

In a nutshell...

Everything needs water to survive and the more you can supply, the greater the variety of wildlife you'll have in your garden.

southarewildlifegroup.org



Find us on Facebook and Twitter!



WILD PATCH INFORMATION SHEET



Ponds continued

Continued from previous page

There is a range of native plants available online or from pond specialists. Choose a variety: some that will stay submerged, some that will float with surface leaves and others that will grow at the shallow edge of the pond (marginals).

A pile of logs or stones next to the pond will provide habitat and hibernation for frogs, toads and newts through the winter.

Avoid fish – they will eat tadpoles and much invertebrate life in the pond.

Safety

Children are fascinated by water but ponds can be a danger. Stick to small watery habitats such as a washing-up bowl pond, or install a metal grid frame just below the surface of the water (only possible on pre-formed ponds). The area can also be fenced or hedged off with a locked gate. Ensure children are supervised at all times and educate them in safety near the pond without discouraging their enthusiasm!

Further information

Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk

British Dragonfly Society
www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

Buglife www.buglife.org.uk

Freshwater Habitats Trust
www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

Plantlife International www.plantlife.org.uk

Really Wild Flowers www.reallywildflowers.co.uk

The Wildlife Garden Project
www.wildlifegardenproject.com

The Wildlife Trusts www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk

Wild About Gardens www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

Wildlife and wildlife gardening
www.naturalsurroundings

Contact us

If you'd like some more advice, contact us:

Email: info@southyarewildlifegroup.com

Website: southyarewildlifegroup.org



southyarewildlifegroup.org



Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

