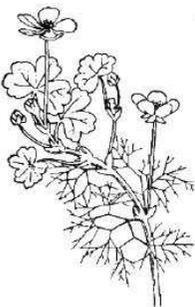


Do give careful consideration to the site of the pond. Try to avoid putting it under trees as the leaves will fall in the water and cause problems when they decay. Choose a sunny, sheltered spot to encourage plant and animal growth. You will get more enjoyment from your pond if it is near the house.

An irregular shape looks more natural than a regular geometric form. To help you decide on the shape, experiment by putting a piece of rope on the ground to mark the most pleasing outline. Leave it in place for a few days to see how much sun the area gets. When digging your pond remember that it needs to have different levels to cater for a variety of plants and animals. On the inner pages of this leaflet you will find a sectional drawing of a pond with lists of plants suited to the different regions of a pond.



If you fill your pond with tap water it is likely to turn bright green to start with and will need several weeks to settle. Barley straw may help to clear this problem so drop a small bundle, tied with string, in one end of the pond. Use a bale in large ponds.

If you want frogs, toads and newts to breed in your pond don't stock it with fish as they will eat all the tadpoles!

Finally, leave a hard area at the side of your pond where you can sit and enjoy watching the wildlife which your pond will attract.

Illustrations on front and back pages  
by Frances Wilding

## Wycombe Wildlife Group

Among its activities Wycombe Wildlife Group surveys and promotes the management of wild habitats for the benefit of wildlife and advises on and promotes wildlife gardening.

**Information about the Group can be obtained from the Group's web site at: [www.wycombewildlife.org.uk](http://www.wycombewildlife.org.uk)**

## Gardens for Waterlife

A pond is one of the most important features of a wildlife garden, attracting more wildlife than anything else. With the loss of so many natural and village ponds, garden ponds play a significant role in ensuring that those species which undergo their early development in water continue to thrive.



You can dig a pond at any time of the year, but it is probably best done in the autumn or winter. It will then be ready to stock in the following spring, allowing the plants a full season's growth before the next winter.

Various materials can be used to make a garden pond:

**Prefabricated glass fibre** ponds are an easy option but few have shallow shelves which are essential as bathing and breeding areas.

**Butyl rubber** is available as a pond liner in widths up to 6m, and is the most versatile material available.

**Plastic sheeting** can be used but it has a limited life. Cover any exposed liner with turfs as sunlight makes it harden and crack.

**Half barrels or old stone** sinks make excellent mini ponds if you do not have the space for a full size pond in your garden.

**Puddled clay or cement** can be used to construct ponds but are not suited to small garden ponds.

We will not give full details of digging a pond here but suggest you consult one of the many books on the subject.

*Continued on back page*



## Native Water Plants Suitable for a Garden Wildlife Pond

### Plants for marshy areas around the edge of the pond

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Water Mint         | <i>Mentha aquatica</i>          |
| Brooklime          | <i>Veronica beccabunga</i>      |
| Yellow Iris        | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>         |
| Soft-rush          | <i>Juncus effusus</i>           |
| Compact Rush       | <i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>     |
| Greater Pond-sedge | <i>Carex riparia</i>            |
| Lesser Pond-sedge  | <i>Carex acutiformis</i>        |
| Flowering-rush     | <i>Butomus umbellatus</i>       |
| Marsh-marigold     | <i>Caltha palustris</i>         |
| Meadowsweet        | <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>      |
| Marsh Cinquefoil   | <i>Potentilla palustris</i>     |
| Bogbean            | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>    |
| Lesser Bulrush     | <i>Typha angustifolia</i>       |
| Water-plantain     | <i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> |
| Cuckooflower       | <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>      |
| Purple-loosestrife | <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>        |

### Plants for shallow ledges in the pond

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greater Spearwort   | <i>Ranunculus lingua</i>    |
| Water Forget-me-not | <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i> |
| Amphibious Bistort  | <i>Persicaria amphibia</i>  |

### Plants with floating leaves

(on ledges or rooted at the bottom of the pond)

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Arrowhead            | <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> |
| Yellow Water-lily    | <i>Nuphar lutea</i>            |
| White Water-lily     | <i>Nymphaea alba</i>           |
| Floating Sweet-grass | <i>Glyceria fluvitans</i>      |

### Free floating plants

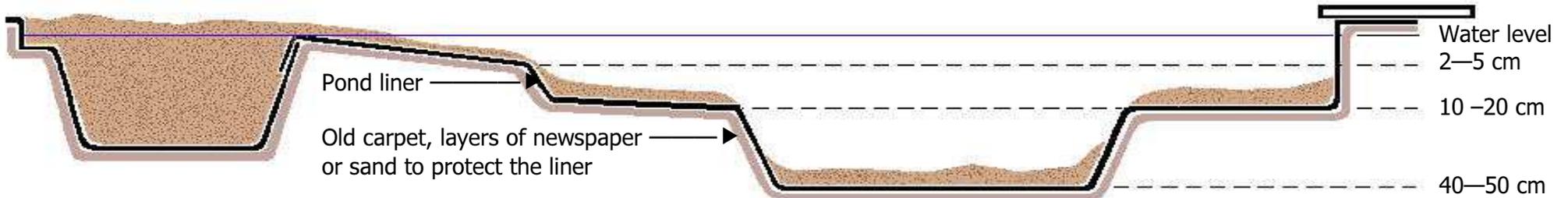
|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Water-soldier      | <i>Stratiotes aloides</i>       |
| Frogbit            | <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> |
| Fringed Water-lily | <i>Nymphoides peltata</i>       |

### Submerged plants for the deeper water

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rigid Hornwort        | <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>  |
| Common Water-crowfoot | <i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>    |
| Common Water-starwort | <i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>   |
| Spiked Water-milfoil  | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>   |
| Willow Moss           | <i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i> |
| Curled Pondweed       | <i>Potamogeton crispus</i>     |

These submerged plants help oxygenate the water so enabling all the aquatic organisms, that need oxygen, to survive in the pond.

(Canadian Waterweed, *Elodea canadensis*, is often sold as a good oxygenator - it is, but it grows too rapidly for a garden pond and will choke it and you will be forever pulling it out!)



### Marshy area

Created by using a low cost liner or by burying an old plastic baby bath or large plastic boxes.

The pond liner should overlap the liner of the marsh area so that the overflow from the pond keeps this area wet.

### Marshy area sloping to

very **shallow water** so animals can get out of the water easily and hide among the marsh plants.

A more open, shallow area in which birds can bathe should also be created away from any tall vegetation on the pond margins.

### Shallow water zone

Lighter and warmer than the deeper areas in the summer.

With a **very small pond** you should only select two or three plants from each category above and every two years thin them out, especially the invasive ones like the Yellow Iris. Where you find something is too invasive for your pond, clear it out and try something else.

### Deep water zone

An important area of a pond for, if deep enough, it will not freeze so allowing many of the organisms in the pond to survive the winter.

### Medium depth zone

Adjoining a vertical side with a paved edge will enable you to see into the water easily to observe the aquatic organisms of the pond and indulge in a little pond dipping. Enjoy pond-dipping but do put back the creatures you take out to examine.