

If the pond's water level drops too low then action might be needed.

Only top up your pond with rainwater as tap water contains too many nutrients, which encourages algae.

Summer is a time to enjoy the pond and its creatures. Have a go at looking at the pond wildlife using a basic pond dipping kit.



POND DIPPING KIT

A fine mesh aquarium net from a pet shop, white cat litter tray or large margarine tub, yogurt pots, and a magnifying glass and plastic spoons from a pound shop.

SUMMER



SAFETY NOTE

Children and vulnerable people should always be supervised in the garden and by ponds. Explain to your children that they must be careful when near water, just like being near a road. You may wish to put a fence around your pond for extra safety.

POND CALENDAR

Planning when to work on your pond, whether at home or school, can make a real difference to your pond's health and the wildlife you'll find - in other words its biodiversity.

You might have heard the phrase 'Spring clean your pond' but actually if you did just that you would likely diminish the pond life considerably. This leaflet offers information about what can be done, and when.

For further information on managing your pond whether at home or your school check out our website.



USEFUL WEBSITE

footprint-trust.co.uk/projects/pond-warden-scheme/

This leaflet is for guidance purposes only. It is not possible to cover all aspects of pond care, management and safety in this publication, so you should seek further guidance from a suitably experienced agency or individual.



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LOOKING AFTER YOUR POND ALL YEAR ROUND



A GUIDE TO CARING FOR YOUR WILDLIFE POND

Many leaves falling into your pond can add too many nutrients. To limit this, gently skim leaves off with a broom or cover your pond with a net. Take care not to damage any pond liner.

Life in the pond will slow down as the temperature drops during autumn and so, later in the season, it's time to do any clearing of unwanted vegetation.

Leaving pond vegetation around the edge of the pond for a few days will allow creatures to crawl back into the pond.

Leave in place a good proportion of pond plants as they provide important cover for mini beasts. Similarly with marginal planting and with reeds; ideally limit reeds to 25% of the pond.

Your pond can be managed through until Saint Valentine's Day on 14th February as traditionally that is the day that all animals find a partner! At around this time you will find frogs mating in warmer parts of the UK.

Think about improving the environment around the pond.

- Cut back trees if they are overly shading the pond - some shade is okay.
- Add habitat like a rockery or log pile with plenty of gaps for overwintering newts.

As things start to thaw and become active it's time to mainly leave nature to its own devices.

Further pond plants can be added at this time. It's good to have a variety of types of pond vegetation with submerged, surface, emergent and marginal planting.

Source new plants carefully! It's important to plant non-invasive species; it takes seconds to plant but possibly years to remove problem plants.

The safest plant species are those native to the UK, and they'll be those most likely to attract wildlife too!

Sometimes while buying one species you end up planting others, be aware to clean off duckweed for instance.

Check your water butt is working ready for summer.



USEFUL WEBSITE

nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise

AUTUMN

WINTER

SPRING



SAFETY NOTE

It's wise to work in pairs around water environments. Listen out for a big splash!!



POND PREDATORS

Who's eaten all the pond life? Often it's goldfish. They may seem a harmless addition but can seriously diminish the amount of wildlife in your pond as they are top predators. Natural wildlife ponds are much cheaper too, no need for pumps and the electricity used, filters, fish food etc.



POND HYGIENE

Be careful not to move diseases around by accepting or giving away tadpoles. Amphibians suffer from various diseases; limit the spread by having a healthy pond which hopefully will attract healthy amphibians naturally.