



Ponds for wildlife

Almost any water body, whatever its size, will have some wildlife value, even if only as a drinking place. This value can, however, be greatly increased if the pond is well designed and maintained. These pages describe how to make and look after small wildlife ponds.

You must decide what wildlife you want to attract before you dig your pond because its position, size and shape, as well as the surrounding habitat, will affect its appeal to different species.

There is a lot of information available on the creation and maintenance of ponds. Much of it is conflicting, in part because no-one knows all the answers and also because different types of ponds attract different wildlife.

First, you have to decide what you want from your pond. Will it be a relatively natural pond for wildlife, or a more ornamental pond for fish.

In general, for wildlife, the larger the pond the better, provided there is a wide variety of habitats. Remember that goldfish cannot be kept in a wildlife pond, since they would eat the spawn of amphibians.

When planning your pond, please consider the safety of any children that use the garden.

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Pond maintenance at the Henry Doubleday Wildlife Garden, The Lodge - Andy Hay (RSPB)