

Water in the garden



As well as pond animals, birds, insects and mammals need water in the garden to drink. If you cannot manage a pond, a bird bath or tray of water is good but remember to keep it clean and put in a stone to allow safe access to the water.



Ponds can be all shapes and sizes. You may only have space for a small tub pond as above. Put some pond plants in it and make sure animals can get in and out of the water. The temperature of the water will stay more steady if you can sink the tub in the ground.

If you have space for a bigger pond you will find it very rewarding. Ponds should not be sited in deep shade or under trees as the pond plants will not grow well and leaves falling in to the pond are a big problem if they rot.



Preformed ponds and liner both work well but it is good to have plenty of shallow shelves for marginals and to have one end very shallow. Frogs and toads need to be able to get in and out of the water and animals will drink at the shallow end. If need be you can create this by putting in stones or having a beach effect.



You will need oxygenating plants in the water as well as marginals, tall plants like irises and planting around the edge to give cover. The picture shows a Marsh Marigold in flower.

It will not take long for wildlife to find your pond such as the Damselflies in the picture. Sitting beside your pond watching the wildlife is one of life's great pleasures.

