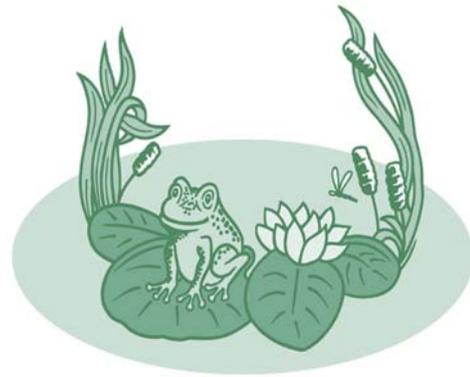


Woodlands Nurseries

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PLANTING YOUR POND

Why have water plants?

Water plants are a must when you have a pond. As well as looking beautiful, they will help your pond to blend in with the rest of the garden. They also provide breeding places for water wildlife, such as pond skaters, frogs, dragonflies, fish and even newts. Plants provide shade for the water helping to control the temperature throughout the seasons. Their roots absorb nutrients that might otherwise pollute the water and submerged aquatics add oxygen to the water.

Types of water plant

- **Submerged aquatics** – these live completely under water. They are the oxygenating plants you often see releasing streams of air bubbles in sunlight. Some types are more efficient oxygenators than others e.g. Oxygenator (*Elodea Crispa*)
- **Deep-water aquatics** – these have their roots in water that is 45cm (18") or more in depth. Their leaves stand out above the water or float on the surface e.g. water lilies, water hawthorne (*Aponogeton distachyus*)
- **Marginal plants** – these grow in the shallow water around the edge of a pond in planting baskets standing submerged in water e.g. Iris's, Lobelia's, Lythrum's and Thaila's
- **Free-floating plants** – these drift about on the surface of the pond with their roots dangling in the water e.g. Water Hyacinth, Frog's-Bit

The numbers of plants required for garden ponds are as follows:

Ponds of up to 15 square yards/metres

- Water lilies 1 per 2/3 square yards/metres
- Marginals 8-10 per linear yard/metre
- Oxygenators 3-4 bunches per square yard/metre
- Floaters 2-3 per pond

Ponds of over 15 square yards/metres

- Water lilies 1 per 3/4 square yards/metres
- Marginals 8-10 per linear yard/metre
- Oxygenators 2-3 bunches per square yard/metre
- Floaters 2-3 per pond per square yard

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Planting your pond – a few tips

Ponds need a mixture of different plant types to look good and function properly. When planting aim to have enough floating foliage, such as water hawthorn or water lilies, so that within two to three years around 60% of the pond surface is covered with leaves in mid-summer.

When placing deep water or marginal aquatics in the pond, ensure they are at the correct depth. The figure given on the label refers to the amount of water standing over the top of the planting basket, not the depth of water to stand the pot in.

Oxygenators need to be completely underwater or they will dry up in the sun. Deep planting also means the oxygen they give off has the longest route to the surface and hence the longest time in which to dissolve into the water.

Oxygenating plants are sold either in bunches which require planting or which may be thrown in. The majority must be planted. Ideally they would be grown in the shallow until established, after which they can be lowered to the bottom of your pond.

On the other hand, marginal plants will ‘drown’ in water that’s too deep for them. As a general rule 15cm (6in) deep suits them best.