

Woodlands Nurseries

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HERONS

Heron can be unwanted guests at your pool side, eating both fish and frogs. They can spot fish in a pond from around 200 feet high!

They do not normally land directly in the pond but will land in the garden and stalk from there, as landing on the surface of the pond will scare their prey. Many ideas have been suggested as deterrents for herons, most work to some extent:

- Covering your pond with a cage or net is probably the most guaranteed way to protect your pond. If using net this needs to be suspended between 6" to 1' (30cm) above the surface of the pond and kept taut, otherwise the heron may try to land on the net and spear through it. It is effective, but unfortunately it's also obtrusive
- Another method to consider is to suspend strong fishing line about a 1' to 18" (30 - 45cm) above the ground all around the pond perimeter. This should stop the heron getting at your fish. Canes and nylon fishing line might look less obtrusive than netting the pond. The fishing line needs to be about 6" to 1' away from the pond edges. This does deter the heron leaning over to catch your fish.
- A crumpled plastic pop bottle part filled with salt water and anchored in the middle of the pool or an old CD disc drilled at the edge and suspended above the pool on fishing line - apparently the flashing scares them.
- Plastic or metal reproduction herons are another alternative, as they work on the principle that herons will not feed close to other herons. They should be placed at the side or near the pool, and moved, or turned regularly. Some people claim that replica herons actually attract other herons in early spring whilst they're searching for a mate (we will purchase the eggs of any successful breeding!).
- Growing tall marginal plants around the pond will limit the heron's access to the water and is probably the most attractive option.

Please be aware that herons are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. You could be liable to a fine if you resort to drastic measures to eliminate the problem!