

STEP 1:

SHAPE THE POND FOR WILDLIFE

First, mark out your pond on the ground with a rope, and when you are happy with the size, increase it by 25% as the pond will appear smaller when dug. Then get digging! Ensure that the sides are level with a spirit level. Remember to include some shallow areas in your pond, and a 'beach' area with a slope into the pond for amphibians.

STEP 2:

PREPARE THE BASE

Remove any sharp stones and roots from the bottom of the hole. Put down underlay or a 5cm-thick layer of sand to line the hole. Do not use old carpet as it will eventually rot and could create a puncture in the liner.

STEP 3:

PLACE LINER

Dig a trench around the edge of the pond for the overhanging liner to drop into. Place the liner carefully and tuck the edge into the trench; weigh it down with large rocks or tuck under grass. Any excess liner can be cut off. Ensure the liner moulds to the shape of the pond ledges. Use only quality pond liner with a guarantee. Cheap pond liners may crack in sunlight. Bring your dimensions to us and we can calculate how much liner you will need.

STEP 4:

FILL THE POND UP

If possible, use collected rainwater to fill your pond, or fill from the tap with a hose. If you do use tap water then leave it to stand for a few days before adding to it, or use de-chlorinator.

STEP 5:

ADD PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE

Plants can be introduced 1-2 weeks after filling with water. Native species in baskets such as Yellow Flag (Iris Pseudacorus), Sedges (Carex), Water Mint, Water Forget-Me-Not (Myosotis), and oxygenators such as Willow Moss, Hornwort, Water Soldiers and Potamogeton. Ask us for advice on pond planting.

STEP 6:

ENJOY THE WILDLIFE & MAINTAIN THE HAVEN

Watch and see what wildlife visits. Place more stones, logs and plants around the edges to create habitats for pond-visiting creatures. Top up the pond when needed. In Autumn, cut plants as they die back, and net to keep out leaves. Melt ice to allow gases to escape. Clean out the pond of any debris and leave on the side for 24 hours to give any wildlife a chance to crawl back into the pond.

BOW AQUATICS

HOW TO

Set up a Wildlife Pond



A beautiful Wildlife Pond offers a treat for the senses. Enjoy the reflections and lush plants, while creating a haven for wildlife (including newts, toads, frogs and insects).



CREATE DIFFERENT ZONES FOR YOUR POND:

ZONE 1A:

ADJOINING PLANTED AREAS

Provide shelter for birds and amphibians, hedgehogs and voles etc. Use logs and stones as shelter for toads.

ZONE 1B:

MOIST/BOG AREA

Bog plants help to attract insects and provide cover for other wildlife.

ZONE 2A:

BEACH AREA

Easy for amphibians to enter and leave the pond. Birds can drink and bathe in the shallows. Rich habitat for microscopic aquatic life, such as insect larvae and young frogs.

ZONE 2B:

MARGINAL PLANTS

Provides shelter from wind and sunlight, and cover for wildlife. Aquatic life lives in amongst the roots. Insects can leave the water by clambering up the stems. Aim for 20° to 40° of slope.

ZONE 3:

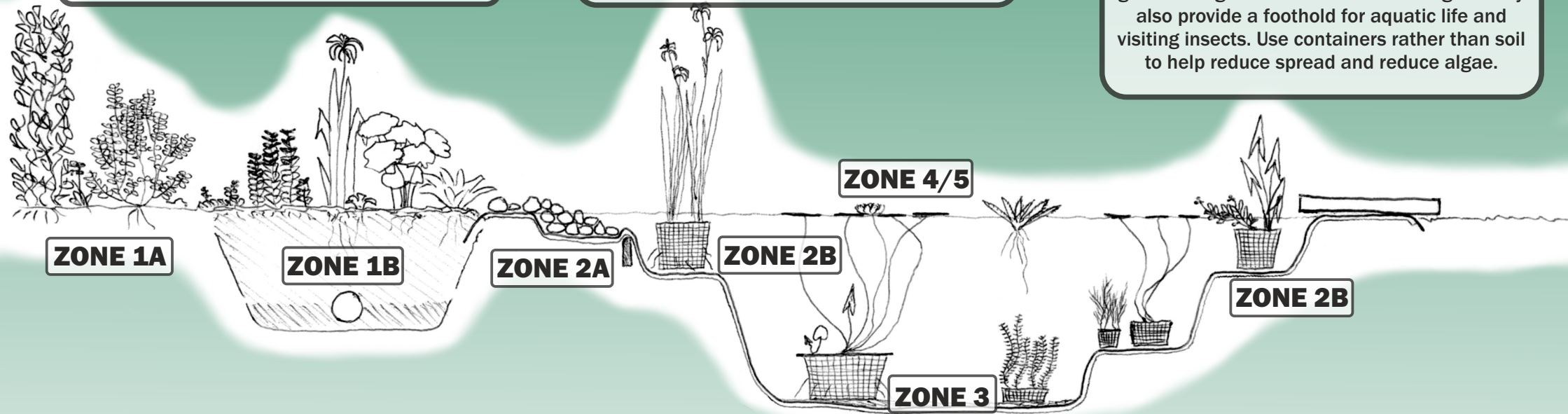
DEEP WATER/SUBMERGED AQUATICS

Use up excess nutrients in the water, helping to keep the pond healthy and clear. They provide food and shelter for aquatic life, and microscopic organisms live on the plant surfaces. They oxygenate the water during daylight hours.

ZONE 4/5:

LILIES, LILY-LIKE PLANTS, & FLOATING PLANTS

Provide valuable shade during Summer, keeping water cool and reducing excessive growths of green water and thread algae. They also provide a foothold for aquatic life and visiting insects. Use containers rather than soil to help reduce spread and reduce algae.



WHERE BEST TO SITUATE?

Ideally, position your wildlife pond in partial shade. Ponds in full sunlight will attract more algae growth. Make it visible from a distance so you can view it without disturbing the wildlife. Try and pick a location away from deciduous trees, as Autumn leaves will sink, creating unwanted debris on the pond floor.

KEEP SOME SURFACE OPEN

Aim to keep some of the surface free of plants (about one 3rd), to allow light to reach the submerged aquatics, and gases to exchange at the water surface.

PLACE SHELVES AT A VARIETY OF DEPTHS

Must be at least 20cm wide. These provide suitable conditions for a wide range of water plants.

DUCKS AND WATERFOWL

Can be very messy and disruptive. They should not be encouraged except perhaps in the very largest of ponds or lakes and then only in moderate numbers.

CREATE A STURDY EDGE FOR ACCESS

This must be able to support people safely.