How to Manage your Pond Season by Season



Your pond needs care throughout the year - this guide gives details of the best time to carry out specific tasks

Spring

Amphibians should arrive at your pond to breed in early spring and your first damselflies and dragonflies will start to emerge too. Early blooming plants such as marsh marigold and cuckooflower will add colour to the pond and be useful nectar sources for insects coming out of hibernation.

If you want to add any new plants, late spring is a good time to do this.

Summer

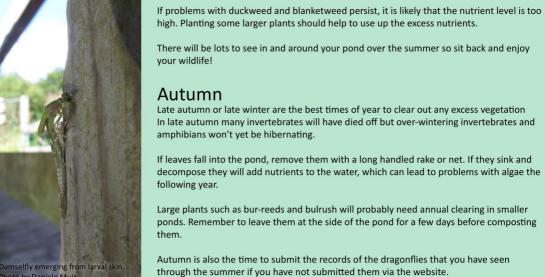
If the pond level is getting very low in a hot summer then you can top it up with water from a water butt in the garden. It is best not to use tap water as it contains nutrients which can encourage the growth of algae/ blanketweed. Duckweed may build up over the surface of your pond – this can grow very quickly so it





is best to skim it off using a net. Leave it at the side of the pond for a day or two before composting it. This gives any invertebrates caught up in the duckweed a chance to escape back into the pond.

If you do get a build-up of algae or blanketweed, this can be removed by using a cane and twisting the weed around it. Again, leave it at the side of the pond for a few days before composting.





Winter

Keep removing any leaves that fall into the pond. When it's very cold and close to freezing, float a ball in the pond to prevent a small section from freezing over so birds can still have a drink and bathe. It should ensure more oxygen passes into the water too. Don't break the ice as the shock waves can kill hibernating wildlife — a pan of hot water can be used to open a space if the water has already frozen, but pour slowly so that it is a controlled process. When it is snowy, remove as much snow from the pond as is safely possible. Snow can prevent light getting to the oxygenating plants in the pond so oxygen levels fall which is dangerous for hibernating animals.

Late winter is a good time to divide any emergent plants and also clear excess vegetation from your pond. This will be a time when dragonfly eggs should be hatching and larvae will be finishing their resting period. It should be done before the end of February to avoid any newts returning to the pond to breed.



