

Dealing with Drought



As our climate warms droughts are becoming more frequent, drying out wetlands across the country. This can prove fatal to freshwater creatures, such as dragonfly larvae, who can't survive long out of water.

Drought resistant pond design

Ponds with a higher surface area to volume ratio (uniformly shallow ponds) dry out faster during drought. Therefore, when digging your pond create a deep well in the centre where water will pool and aquatic invertebrates can take refuge during drought.

Topping up your pond

In an emergency you may have to resort to filling up your pond with tap water. Unfortunately the chlorine content of tap water is poisonous to small invertebrates. Therefore, it is recommended that you first fill up water butts or buckets with tap water and leave them for as long as possible before adding their contents to the pond. This will allow the chlorine to evaporate beforehand.

Recycling rainwater

Roof runoff is a more sustainable source of water you can use to top up your pond, without the risks posed by chlorine. Water butts can be placed under roof drain pipes to collect water, or drains can be installed to run directly to your pond.

