

Having a pond is one the best ways to increase biodiversity in your garden.

They support a vast amount of invertebrates and amphibians, as well as acting as a source of water for mammals, reptiles and birds.

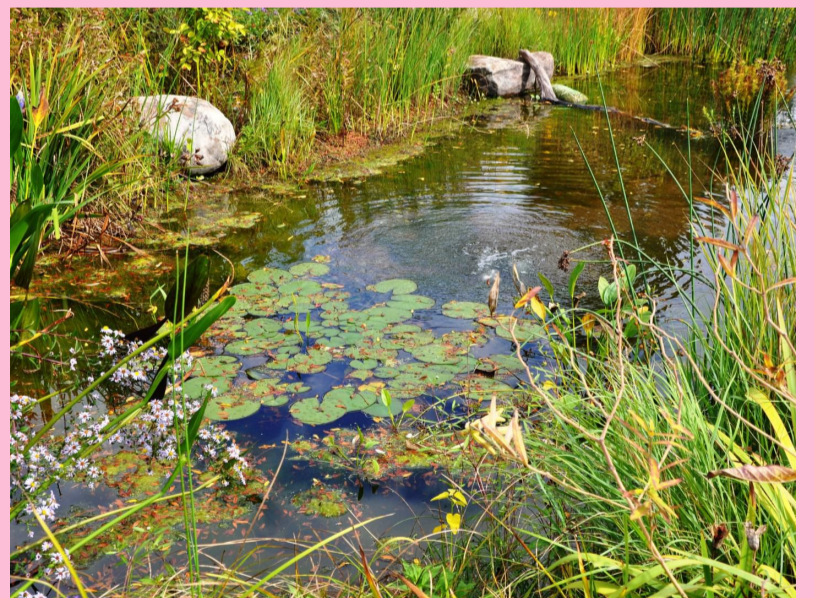


Ponds don't have to be large to support a lot of wildlife. Even a bucket or old sink can become a buzzing habitat.



Top Tips for a nature pond:

- **Don't add fish, sadly they will eat a lot of the wildlife you are trying to attract.**
- **Plant a good mixture of native aquatic plants like Hornwort, Water mint, Marsh Marigold and Water Forget-Me-Not.**
- **If you need to top your pond up, try and use rain water.**
- **Ponds need sunlight, so avoid creating a new pond under mature trees.**
- **Make sure there are easy escape routes for wildlife, like a wooden ramp or a sloped edge.**



For instructions on how to create or manage a nature pond, scan the QR Code!



Pond Amphibians



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You often find smooth newts in garden ponds. They mate in the water over summer, but will spend the rest of their time living in grassy or woodland areas.

They live for an average of 6 years, growing to about 7-11cm in length.

Smooth newts are Crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk.

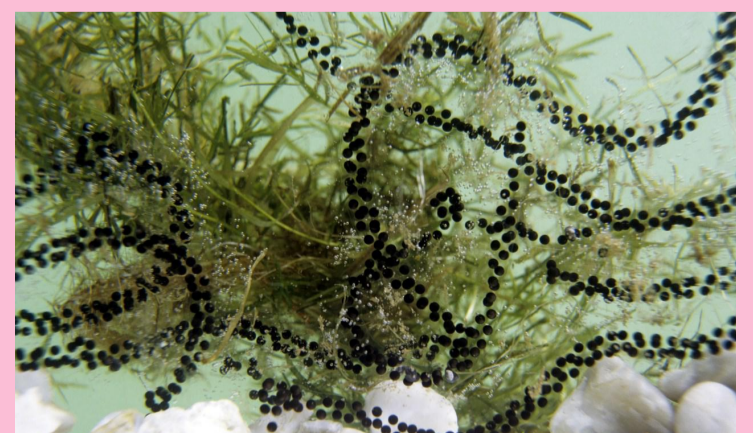


Frogs & Toads are another visitor you will find in ponds.

They both grow to the same size, between 8-13cm. Also, they both enjoy eating insects, slugs and snails.

Frogs tend to be light in colour and smooth, whereas toads are usually a darker brown and warty. Frogs will hop around but toads will only walk.

Frogs lay spawn in big clumps....



....But toads lay spawn in long, 2-wide strings!

How do I manage my garden for Amphibians?



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Firstly you will need a pond! Big or small, amphibians use ponds to mate and lay their eggs.

Provide lots of shaded areas in your pond for creatures to hide under by using large stone, logs and wood.

Don't keep fish in your pond, they will eat amphibian's eggs and the insects they rely on.

**Amphibians actually spend most of their life outside of water, hiding in long grass and woody areas.
Create log piles and rockeries near to your pond to provide extra habitat.**

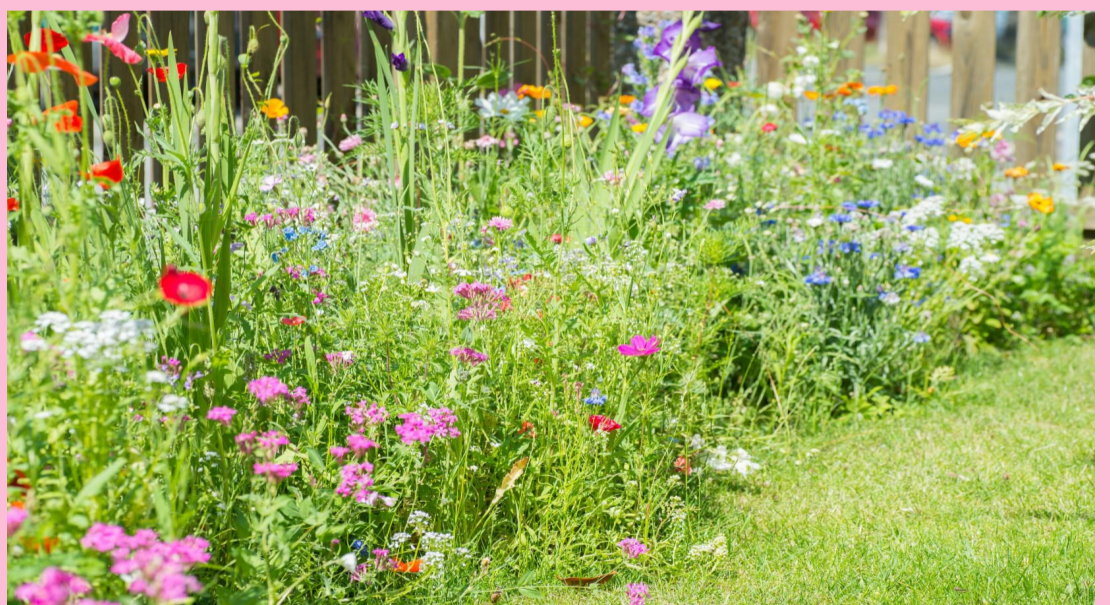


Amphibians love hiding in long grass. Double check your lawn for them before mowing, or even better, leave your grass to grow long and wild.



Amphibians eat insects, so attracting lots of bugs to your garden will benefit them:

- You can create areas of native wild flowers**
- Leave leaf litter where it falls, or rake into a habitat pile.**



To allow amphibians to spread to or from your garden, make sure there are plenty of entrances to your garden.

If you have solid walls or fences, consider talking to your neighbours about creating small nature holes/ tunnels.



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Pond Insects



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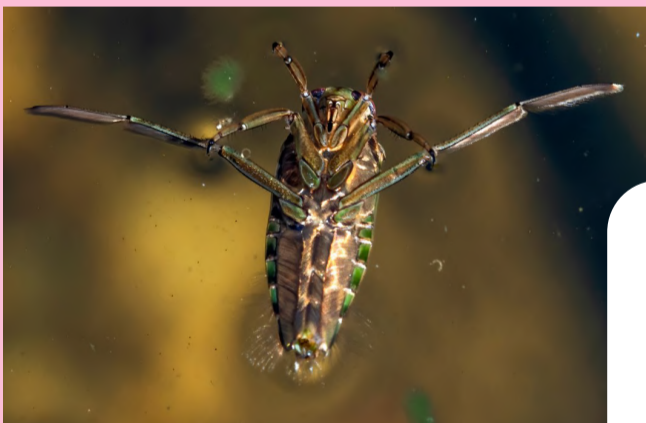
- Damselflies tend to be thinner
- Rest with their wings closed
- Nymphs have 3 long tails



- Dragonflies have stockier bodies
- Rest with their wings open
- Nymphs don't have a tail

Dragonflies and damsel flies spend most of their life, about 1-2 years, underwater as a 'nymph'. After emerging as an adult, they only live for a few weeks. At all stages of life they hunt and eat smaller insects.

Whirligig beetles are small, black insects that zoom around the pond surface in circles. They have 2 sets of eyes, allowing them to see above and below the water.



Greater water boatmen swim upside down, using their long oar-like legs to propel them quickly through the water. Being excellent hunters, they eat small invertebrates, tadpoles and even small fish.

Great diving beetles are very strong swimmers. You can often see them coming to the surface for air before diving back down to hunt smaller insects, tadpoles and little fish.



Pond skaters have water repellent hairs on the bottom of their feet, allowing them to walk on water! They hunt other insects by detecting vibrations on the water's surface.