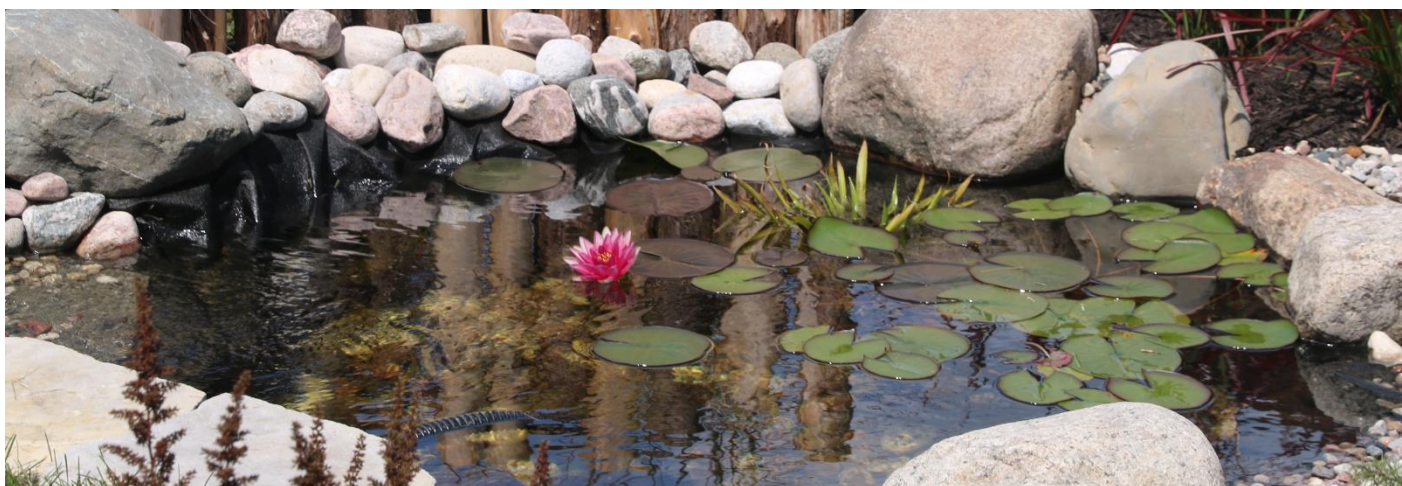


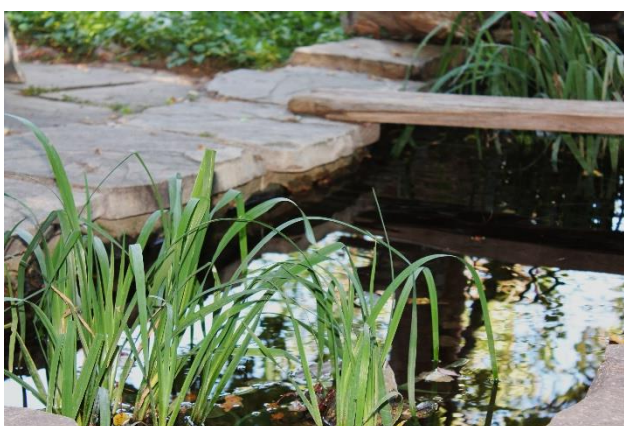
Create a container pond for wildlife!



Creating a pond is a great idea to welcome wildlife into your garden. Water is one of our 5 essentials, and having a pond doesn't just encourage birds to visit, but is the perfect habitat for frogs, newts, insects, and other wildlife too!



A pond of any size can be a great addition to a garden. Even small 'container' ponds can attract wildlife very quickly and don't need a great deal of gardening experience to get started. You only need to add a couple of plants to help oxygenate the water to stop the pond from becoming stagnant; rigid hornwort and water violets are great for this!



How to create a 'container' pond?

1. Find a water-tight container to use as your starting block. You can use old washing up bowls, old sinks, water tanks etc. As long as the container is sealed so the water cannot leak out and it will be able to handle our changeable British weather!

2. Find the perfect location for your container pond; it should be shaded for at least part of the day so that the water doesn't evaporate quickly. If you have children or pets, make sure it is not accessible by them and located out of the way.
3. Dig your hole to fit your container in, you want the container to be level with the ground so that wildlife can get in and out of your pond easily. Make sure to fill any extra space back in with soil, so that there are no gaps between your container and the rest of the ground.
4. Place some little stones around the edge of your pond to hide the line where the lip of your container meets the soil.
5. Line the bottom of your container with a thin layer of clean gravel or stones and place some stones at one end to create a ramp for wildlife to enter and exit the pond.
6. Fill the pond up with rainwater. Don't use tap-water from the sink, the chemicals used to treat the water aren't good for ponds.
7. Add a couple of plants; if you are creating a small container pond you shouldn't need more than 5 plants, they will grow quickly in no time. Always use native pond plants that are in pots with mesh sides. We recommend rigid hornwort, lesser spearwort, marsh marigolds, brooklime or spiked water-milfoil.
8. Ask your local garden centre for more ideas, if the plant life is native and suited to smaller ponds, it would be a great addition to your garden pond!



Whether you already have a pond in your garden, or you decide to create one, let us know what visitors you have and share some photos too.

Please share on our socials @SongBirdSBS or send a photo to dawn-chorus@songbirdsurvival.org.uk

Learn more about Gardens for Birds and what you can do to help all birds and wildlife at:

www.songbirdsos.org/gardens-for-birds

