

CONTAINER PONDS

For your mini-pond you'll need a water-tight container of at least 60cm diameter. This could be a purpose-bought planter, or you could recycle anything from a half-barrel to an old sink. It's important to keep the water healthy and oxygenated - floating plants such as spiked water milfoil or hornwort will do this job well. For the best flower display site your container pond in a spot which gets at least six hours of sunlight. If your garden or balcony is in a shadier area, you can still create a beautiful pond that provides a haven for invertebrates by choosing shade-tolerant plant species.

FOR A SUNNY SPOT

***Iris versicolor* (Blue Flag Iris)**

North American variety of the Flag Iris. Attracts dragonflies, bees, butterflies and hoverflies to your pond.

***Myosotis scorpioides* (Water Forget-Me-Not)**

British native water-loving species of forget-me-not with tiny true-blue flowers. Attracts bees, butterflies, hoverflies and amphibians - in particular newts.

***Mentha cervina* (Water Spearmint)**

Mentha cervina (spearmint) is a member of the Mint family and roots readily either in wet ground or in water and is less vigorous than *Mentha aquatica*. Gives plenty of habitat opportunities and pollinated by bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

***Nymphaea 'Pygmaea Helvola'* (Miniature Water Lily)**

A miniature water-lily suitable for containers. Plant in the centre of your container pond where the water is deepest. Attracts bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

***Myriophyllum spicatum* (Spiked Water Milfoil)**

Free-floating oxygenating plant that will help to keep your mini-pond from becoming stagnant.

FOR A SHADED SPOT

***Anemopsis californica* (Yerba Mansa)**

North American marginal plant which attracts dragonflies, bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

***Eriophorum angustifolium* (Cotton Grass)**

British native marginal or shallow-water plant with white cotton-wool heads over grass-like foliage.

***Myosotis scorpioides* (Water Forget-Me-Not)**

British native water-loving species of forget-me-not which Attracts bees, butterflies, hoverflies and amphibians - in particular newts.

***Isolepis cernua* (Slender Club Rush)**

Oxygenating plant for the margins of your pond which attracts dragonflies. Has pretty white seedheads that turn brown after flowering.

***Ceratophyllum demersum* (Hornwort)**

Another native oxygenating pond plant that will help to keep the water in your mini-pond from becoming stagnant. Free-floating.

Planting up your pond

It is best to put in plants in special mesh-sided aquatic plant pots. Use a very low nutrient soil mixed with grit (you can buy special soil for ponds) - or buy your plants ready-potted. Place your marginal plants towards the edges of your container - raising them up on bricks or rocks if necessary. Miniature water-lillies can be planted in the centre where the water is deepest. Floating plants can be added last.

Don't forget to add a rock or two towards the margins of your mini-pond to help wildlife to get in and out!

