

March

You should see frog spawn in your pond. Plants will start to sprout and soon water fleas will start clearing any excess algal growth.

January – February

Place a ball on the surface of your pond to stop it freezing completely. If it stays frozen the pond creatures will lose their oxygen. Don't break the ice as the shock waves can kill the animals.

November & December

Cut back some of the reeds on a rotational basis. Don't be afraid to be ruthless, they will grow and spread quickly back again.

If pond freezes over, put a pan of hot water on the surface and allow the ice to melt. Don't use a chemical antifreeze!

April

Order new pond and marsh plants for your pond.

Start to control the growth of blanket weed and duckweed, which can smother a pond and shut out all the light. Blanket weed can be teased out of the water using a stick. Lay it on the side of the pond to allow the small creatures to get back into the water. Alternatively, try putting in a bundle of barley straw in the water. This should help prevent the growth of blanket weed.

Duckweed can be scooped off with a small net, or controlled by planting larger plants.

A Pond Maintenance Year



May

Plant new pond and marsh plants. Split and transplant existing plants if necessary. Don't panic if you have hundreds of tadpoles – not all of them will make it to adult frogs.

Dragonfly and damselfly nymphs start to climb up the reeds before they emerge.

September & October

Now is the time to clean out your pond. If your pond is becoming too shallow, clear out some, but not all, of the silt as it will contain a lot of eggs and larvae. The silt can be composted. Take care not to damage the pond liner and leave any vegetation on the side to drain overnight so pond creatures can return to the water.

Prevent leaves falling or blowing into the pond by covering the pond with a net. Ponds should not be netted all year round as other animals can get entangled. Check netting regularly for casualties.

June – August

The pond should be disturbed as little as possible as various species are breeding and growing.

Keep some longer grass around the pond for young amphibians.

Top up the water if it looks very low. Try to use rain water from a water butt or tap water that has stood for a few days