Pond-ering a garden project?

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It is widely accepted by conservationists that the single most effective thing you can do for wildlife in your garden is to install a pond.

Below is a list of good reasons to have your own:

* They draw in a huge variety of wildlife: amphibians, small mammals and birds many of which are predators for greenfly, slugs and snails.
* They are a wonderful way to teach children about all manner of scientific and biological processes, allowing them to observe nature at close quarters.
* They add another aesthetic level and focal point to the garden, reflecting their surroundings, ever changing throughout the day.
* They are a small part of the solution to flood mitigation, taking overflow from water drainage and also water conservation- you can soak your newly planted pots in the pond and fill your watering can rather than wasting precious tap water.
* They open up a whole new selection of plants for the keen gardener.
* As shown in the Japanese garden-style they can be used as a source of tranquillity and relaxation.

A small pond is easy and inexpensive to create, requiring little more than a sheet of pond lining, a preformed pond, or even a container such as an old sink or wooden barrel (making sure that there is a way for smaller creatures to access the water). A successful wildlife pond needs very little space, but it is important to create it with sloping edges; this is because most aquatic wildlife actually lives in the shallower water. The centre of the pond should be at least 50cm deep to help maintain a steady temperature during the summer months and create a refuge during winter freezes.

Once a pond is in place, it doesn’t take long for all manner of life to find it!