

Pool to Pond

Benefits

01

Save up to \$1,000 on your electricity bill by switching off the pool pump and filter.

02

Enhance your household sustainability by reducing toxic chemical use and providing a source of clean water for garden irrigation.

03

Free up your time because maintaining a pond, unlike a swimming pool, is not expensive or time-consuming.

04

Be a useful educational resource for kids - eg. dip netting to collect a range of aquatic wildlife.

05

Promote biodiversity in your own backyard.

06

Potentially become the custodian of a species of threatened native fish by using your pond as a biobank.

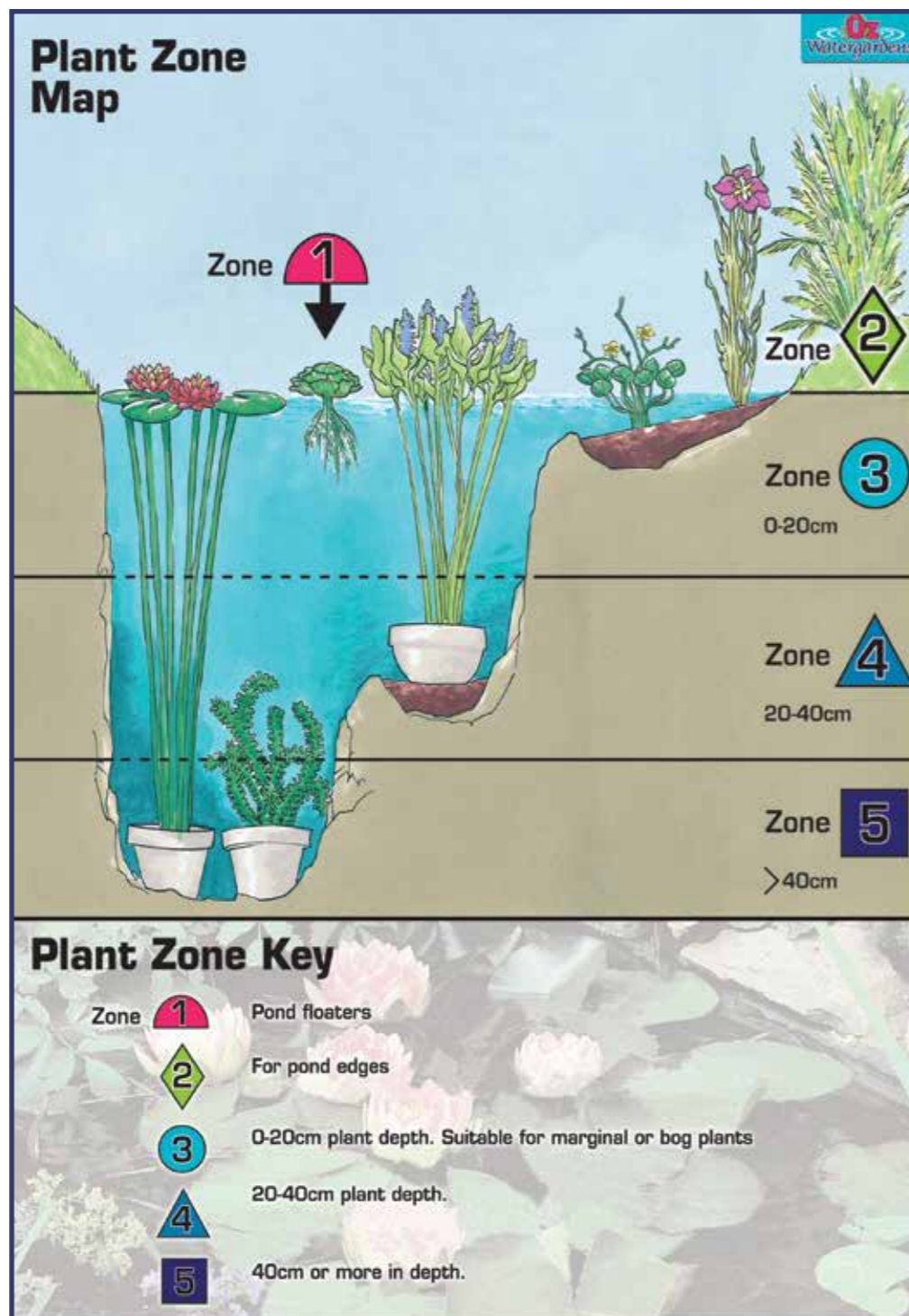
The conversion is reversible

Contact us for more information

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W www.kmc.nsw.gov.au



Aquatic species to avoid

As much as possible we recommend that you stick to native fish species. Some foreign species threaten native fish and aquatic wildlife. While your pool may be self-contained, there is always the risk that it could overflow or be drained accidentally, allowing species to enter watercourses.

The following should definitely be avoided:

Yabbies, White Cloud Mountain Minnow and Gambusia (Mosquito Fish)

Prohibited Weeds

Some pond plants have been declared as weeds and must be controlled under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. Weeds controlled in NSW are:

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*), Hygrophila (*Hygrophila costata*), Hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), Leafy elodea (*Egeria densa*), Sagittaria (*Sagittaria platyphylla*), Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*).

Full list of prohibited weeds under *Pest and weeds management* at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture



Photo: ANGFA

Australian Bass

Macquaria novemaculeata

Size: Large up to 60cm

Appearance: Attractive, often bronze-coloured fish.

Tadpole-friendly: No.

Indigenous to Sydney, Bass are one of Australia's most popular sporting fish but will not breed in a pond.



Photo: ANGFA

Firetail Gudgeon

Hypseleotris galii

Size: 4-5cm

Appearance: Small, grey to bronze with faint stripe along body and reddish tail.

Tadpole-friendly: Yes.

All Gudgeon species are suitable for ponds. Firetails are indigenous to Sydney and are prolific breeders.



Photo: David Wilks

Purple Spotted Gudgeon

Mogurnda adspersa

Size: 10+cm

Appearance: Attractive and popular aquarium fish.

Tadpole-friendly: No.

Hardy and aggressive predator, will breed in a pond.



Photo: © Queensland Museum, Gary Cranitch

Crimson Spotted Rainbow

Melanotaenia duboulayi

Size: 9-13cm

Appearance: Silvery blue-grey with luminous rainbow colouring on tail.

Tadpole-friendly: No.

Most Rainbow fish species are suitable for ponds and are prolific breeders.



Photo: ANGFA

Pacific Blue Eyes

Pseudomugil signifer

Size: 5-8cm

Appearance: Attractive aquarium fish with brilliant blue eyes.

Tadpole-friendly: Yes.

Indigenous to Sydney. Some populations will not survive winter.



Photo: © Queensland Museum, Gary Cranitch

Silver Perch

Bidyanus bidyanus

Size: Large up to 40cm

Appearance: Grey to grey-brown with lighter belly. Small head and mouth.

Tadpole-friendly: No

Omnivorous, suitable for eating but will not breed in a pond.

Useful Tips

- Have some way (such as a tree branch) for wildlife to escape from the pond if they fall in.
- Obtain your pond plants from reputable and/or accredited nurseries and sellers. If you source plants from friends, have them checked for suitability.
- Converted swimming pools are essentially rainwater tanks without lids. This means 1,000s of litres of water are available for irrigation and other uses.
- Young children who can't swim should wear flotation jackets and be well supervised.

Photo: S Gemmell





Photo: Oz Watergardens

Common Spike-rush

Eleocharis acuta

Depth: Zone 3

A perennial with unbranched stems and leaves like sheaths, up to 60cm tall. Several small flowers per spikelet (up to 4cm long) at top of stem.

Excellent habitat plant.



Photo: Oz Watergardens

Water Milfoil

Myriophyllum
(*crispatum*, *papillosum* and *varifolium*)

Depth: Zone 3-4

A very attractive plant with green pine-like leaves which trail across the water surface. Good oxygenating plant and ideal for protection and spawning of fish. Will grow in semi-shade to full sun.

Excellent habitat plant.



Photo: Oz Watergardens

Entire Marshwort

Nymphoides germinata

Depth: Zone 4-5

Hardy perennial. This plant will conjure up images of Monet with water lily shaped leaves and very attractive fringed, star-shaped yellow flowers extending above water.



Photo: Wallis Creek Watergarden

Grey Rush

Lepironia articulata

Depth: Zone 3

Long, round grey stems up to 2m tall. Height and grey colour makes it stand out from other freshwater plants.

Excellent habitat plant.



Photo: Colleen Miller

Jointed Twigrush

Baumea articulata

Depth: Zone 4

Dark green rush to 1.5m. Robust, large clumps with round flower stalks from creeping rhizomes. Soft, tubular green leaves.

Excellent habitat plant.



Austral Water Gardens

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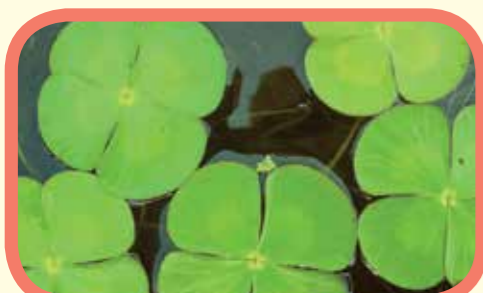


Photo: Austral Watergardens

Nardoo

Marsilea mutica

Depth: Zone 4

4-leaf clover-like fronds, up to 10cm, on soft/limp runners/stems to 1 metre long. This plant was partially responsible for the death of Burke and Wills, explorers who ate the plant.

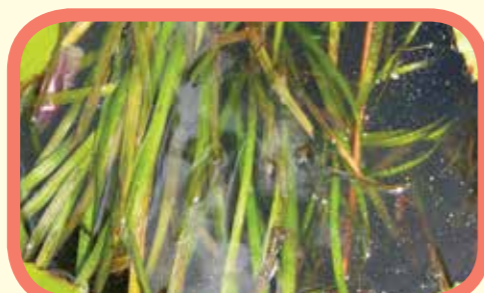


Photo: Wallis Creek Watergarden

Ribbon Grass

Vallisneria spiralis

Depth: Zone 2-3

Long green tape-like leaves up to 1cm wide. Tiny white flowers on a coiled stem. This is a popular aquarium plant.

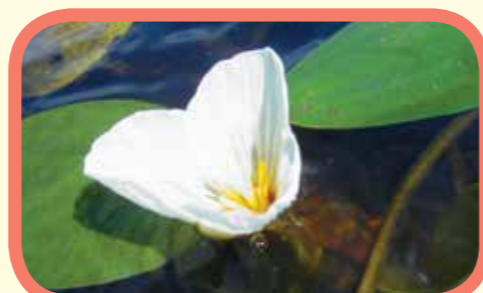


Photo: Swinburne Uni of Tech

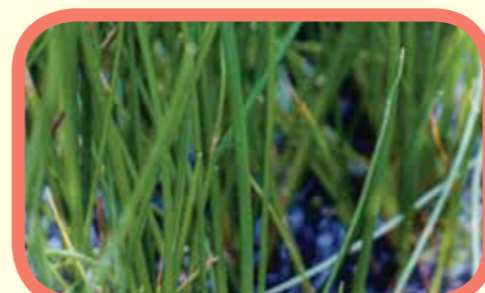
Swamp Lily

Ottelia ovalifolia

Depth: Zone 4-5

This perennial or annual water lily has very attractive small flowers with a 5cm diameter.

Definitely an underused aquatic classic.

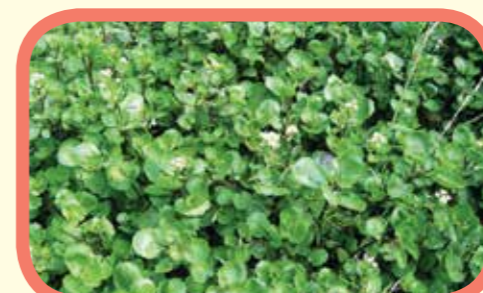


Water Chestnuts

Eleocharis dulcis

Depth: Zone 5 EDIBLE

Perennial grass-like sedge with tube-shaped, leafless green stems 1-1.5m. This plant is a must for the permaculture pond with edible corms that can be eaten raw, boiled, grilled or pickled.



Watercress

Nasturtium officinale

Depth: Zone 2 EDIBLE

Fast-growing perennial with dark bronze green foliage and creeping clusters of small white flowers. This edible plant contains significant amounts of minerals and vitamins.



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ANGFA

Thanks to Australia New Guinea Fishes Association (ANGFA) NSW for some of the images in this brochure. ANGFA is about study, conservation, keeping and propagation of fish native to Australia and New Guinea. If you are interested, become a member at www.angfa-nsw.org

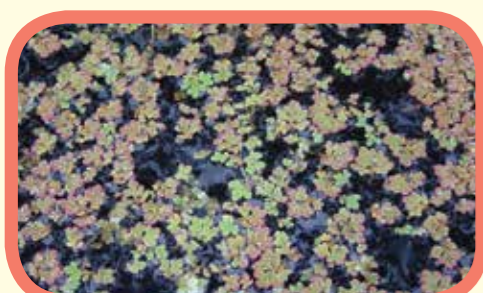


Photo: Oz Watergardens

Water Fern

Azolla pinnata

Depth: Zone 1

Small fern up to 2.5cm with overlapping leaves 1-2mm long. Blue-green or dark red, it is coated in tiny, water-repellent hairs with velvety appearance. This plant has weed potential but makes excellent compost.



Photo: ANGFA

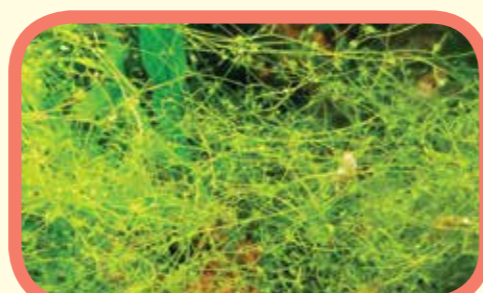
Woolly Frogmouth

Philydrum lanuginosum

Depth: Zone 2-3

Evergreen soft-wooded perennial with yellow flowers. Leaves are narrow and flushed red.

Excellent habitat plant.



Yellow Bladderwort

Utricularia gibba ssp. exoleta

Depth: Zone 1

Yellow flowers on erect stems up to 20cm tall. This is a carnivorous plant that can still be found on the Lane Cove river and traps and digests small aquatic creatures.

Ku-ring-gai Nursery 

specialising in local indigenous plants

- Our nursery stocks local native plants, catering to retail and wholesale customers.
- Stock can be ordered if not available on site.
- Staff are available to discuss your plant requirements.

Opening hours
Mondays - Fridays, 9am- 3.30pm

9424 0376

430 Mona Vale Road, St Ives

www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/nursery



We stock native fish and waterplants plus everything you need to create and maintain a garden pond.

10% off fish and plants - just present this brochure
(expires 31 December 2012)

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Environmental Levy

Our Environment | Our Community | Our Ku-ring-gai

Pool to Pond



Plant and Fish Guide for Sydney Ponds

**Ku-ring-gai Council
helps residents convert
unused swimming pools
into vibrant and beautiful
natural ponds**

More information

www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/pooltopond

www.wildthings.org.au

Cover photo: W Wheatley

