

INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS IN THE WILD

A few examples of the problems caused by pond and aquarium plants that have become invasive

Invasive aquatic plants can be a risk to animals and people when they form dense mats that resemble a solid surface



Floating pennywort clogs waterways damaging the habitat, preventing boat use, and increasing the risk of flooding



Invasive plant control can be costly. Water primrose is not yet widespread in Britain but will cost millions of pounds to manage if it spreads further, like it has in parts of Europe.



PROTECT THE WILDLIFE IN YOUR POND!

Leave any plants you've removed on the edge of the pond to drain for a few hours before disposing of them, to allow any wildlife to return to the water.

IT'S NOT JUST AQUATIC PLANTS
THAT CAN CAUSE A PROBLEM IN
THE WILD, YOUR GARDEN PLANTS
CAN BECOME INVASIVE TOO.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT INVASIVE
PLANTS AND HOW YOU CAN HELP
TO STOP THE SPREAD AT:

nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise



Protecting wildlife
and our waterways
from invasive
aquatic plants:

a guide for pond
and aquarium
owners



YOUR AQUATIC PLANTS CAN BECOME INVASIVE IF THEY ESCAPE INTO OUR WATERWAYS

Most of our ponds and aquaria contain plants that are not native to Britain—they originally came from other parts of the world. While non-native plants can help us to create beautiful ornamental displays to enjoy, if they escape into natural waterbodies some can become invasive.

Invasive aquatic plants can cause serious problems for the environment and the economy

Invasive aquatic plants can quickly take over a waterbody, harming other plants by competing for space, light, and nutrients, and removing oxygen from the water which harms fish and other wildlife. Once established they can be costly to control and can impact on our way of life, for example by clogging up waterways which disrupts the navigation of boats, interferes with recreational activities like fishing, and increases the risk of flooding.

The damage caused by invasive aquatic plants can be irreversible and we don't always know which species will be a problem so it's really important not to plant any in a natural waterbody, even species that are native to other parts of Britain.

You can help to protect our waterways for future generations to enjoy by preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants.

BE PLANT WISE BY FOLLOWING OUR TIPS:



Choose the right plants for your pond, aquarium and other water features

Research plants before you buy them to make sure they are suitable for your needs, easy to dispose of, and won't be invasive. Keep aquarium plants out of your pond. Garden centre staff may be able to help, or visit our website for resources.

Consider native plants, or choose non-invasive alternatives. If your pond is near to a wetland or waterbody, avoid using any plants which aren't locally native and if any invasive plants appear, remove them before they spread into the wild.

Never take plants from the wild, it can be illegal and may damage the environment.

Be careful when you share plants with friends and family, as you may accidentally pass on invasive plants, pests, or plant diseases.

Did you know that it's against the law to share or sell some pond plants? Find a list on our website.



Keep your plants in your pond or aquarium, don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild.

Locate your pond away from natural waterbodies or drains so your plants

can't spread into the wild.

When you buy a new plant remove the surface layer of compost and wash the plant in a bucket before you position it in your pond to remove any seeds or unwanted plant fragments.

Use this and any other waste water from your pond or aquarium on your lawn or to water plants in your garden, away from waterbodies (or drains that flow into them) as it could contain fragments of invasive plants.

Wash garden tools regularly if you use them in other people's ponds or for voluntary work in the countryside to keep them free of plant fragments, seeds or plant diseases.



Dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds, and water responsibly

Make sure nothing you remove from your pond or aquarium ends up in the wild, you could be breaking the law if it does. Read more on restrictions around non-native plants on our website.

Use unwanted aquatic plants as mulch in dry borders in your garden, keeping this away from waterbodies or drains.

If you think you have an invasive plant in your pond that you want to remove, be aware that some species have extra controls around their disposal. Find out more on our website.



Find out more at
nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise