



## How to make a tyre pond

You can reuse a discarded truck tyre or car tyre as the basis for a small pond in your garden. A small pond is not only pleasing to look at, but has many benefits. Water brings frogs and dragonflies that will help eat insect pests, and it creates a humid microclimate that will favour plants growing in and around it.

- 1 Choose a place for your pond that gets morning to midday sun. It is best to have some afternoon shade in summer, as the pond water can become too hot for fish and plants, and algae can overtake it.
- 2 Cut off one side wall of the tyre with a sharp knife or jigsaw (don't use a steel-belted tyre!).
- 3 Dig a hole as wide and as deep as the tyre.
- 4 In the centre of this hole, dig down another 30-40cm, making a deeper inner hole the same width as the inner rim of the tyre. Now you have a hole with a ledge around it where the tyre sits, and the deeper part in the centre of the tyre. (See diagram.)
- 5 Line the hole with either sand or old underfelt or carpet, and then a layer of either heavy builder's plastic sheet or special pond liner. (The sand or carpet will protect the lining sheet from being pierced by stones in the soil beneath.)
- 6 Place the tyre so it sits on the ledge. Fold the pond lining sheet back over the lip of the hole. (See photo.) Now trim the lining to shape.
- 7 Arrange rocks or wood around the edge of the pond, supported by the cut edge of the tyre, to completely cover the pond lining sheet and weight it down.
- 8 Place a bucket of good soil, mixed with mature compost, into the bottom of the hole. Then gently fill the pond with water. You can plant water chestnuts directly into the soil, or place pots of water-loving plants such as Kangkong or watercress around the ledge created by the wall of the tyre.
- 9 Shape the earth around the pond, and plant with herbs or shrubs that like moist conditions.
- 10 You can put some fish in your pond for interest and to keep mosquito wriggler numbers down. Some good species are: Pacific Blue-eyes, Zebradamios, White Clouds and Australian rainbow fish.

