

The Pondpride guide to wildlife pond maintenance

A wildlife pond is a wonderful addition to any garden. It is a haven for wildlife, from insects and birds to frogs and newts. But, as with any feature in your garden, it requires maintenance to keep it in good condition. In this article, we will explore the essential maintenance tasks that you need to carry out to keep your wildlife pond healthy and thriving.

1. Clear out debris

The first step in maintaining your wildlife pond is to clear out any debris that has accumulated. This can include fallen leaves, twigs, and dead plants. The debris can build up over time, and if left unchecked, it can decay and release harmful toxins into the water, which can be harmful to the wildlife in your pond.

To clear out the debris, use a net to scoop up any floating debris. For any debris that has sunk to the bottom, use a pond vacuum to remove it. You can also use a long-handled rake to remove any debris that has accumulated on the sides of the pond.



2. Prune and trim plants

Plants play a crucial role in a wildlife pond. They provide shelter, food, and oxygen for the wildlife in your pond. However, if left unmanaged, they can quickly take over the pond and outcompete other plants.

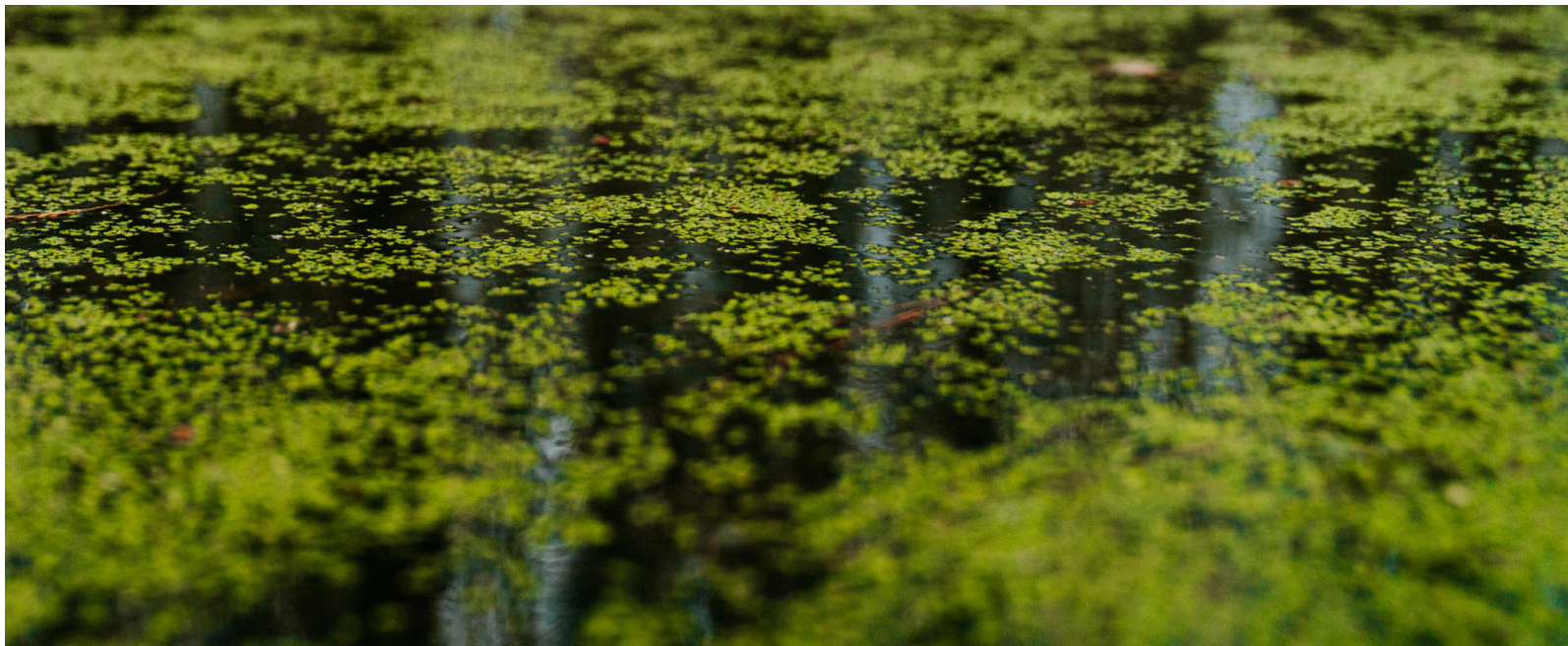
To prevent this, you need to prune and trim your plants regularly. This will keep them in check and ensure that they do not dominate the pond. Remove any dead or dying leaves, and cut back any overgrown plants to keep them under control.



3. Control algae growth

Algae is a natural part of any pond ecosystem, but excessive growth can be a problem. It can cause the water to turn green and murky, and can even deplete the oxygen levels in the water, which can be harmful to the wildlife in your pond.

To control algae growth, you need to take a two-pronged approach. First, you need to remove any excess nutrients from the water. This can be done by adding a pond filter or by using a biological treatment to break down the nutrients.



4. Check water levels

The water level in your wildlife pond is essential for the health of the wildlife in your pond. If the water level is too low, the pond may dry out, which can be harmful to the wildlife. Conversely, if the water level is too high, it can cause flooding and damage to the surrounding area.

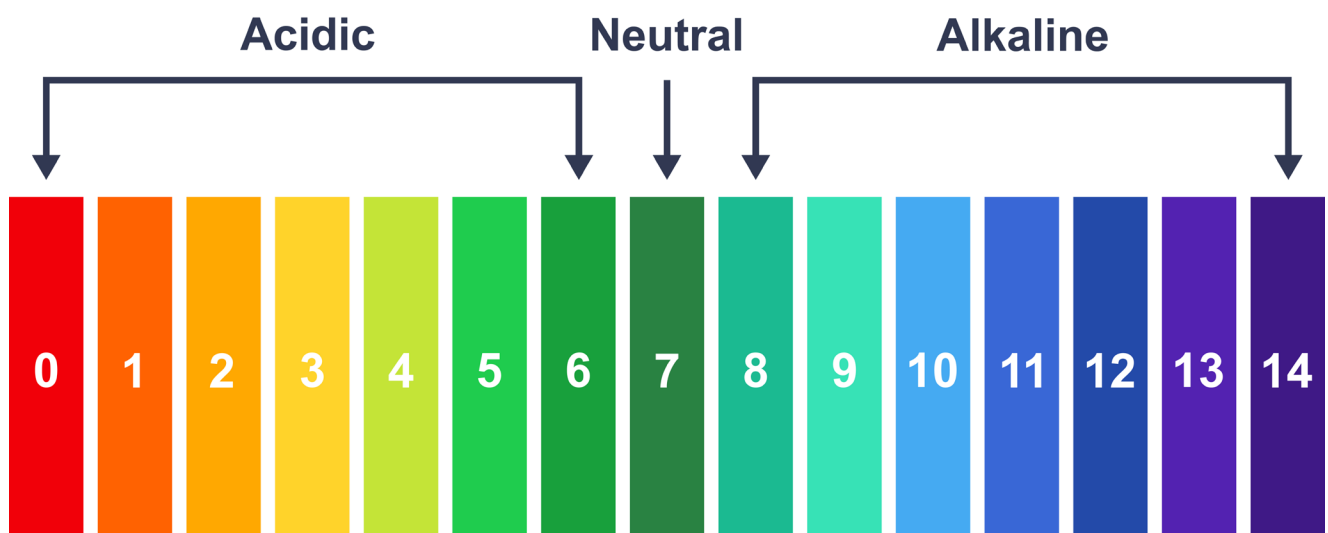
To ensure that the water level is correct, you need to monitor it regularly. If you notice that the water level is dropping, you may need to top it up with fresh water. Conversely, if the water level is too high, you may need to drain some of the water to bring it back to the correct level.



5. Check PH levels

The pH level of your pond is essential for the health of the wildlife in your pond. If the pH level is too high or too low, it can be harmful to the wildlife. For example, a pH level that is too high can cause skin irritation in fish, while a pH level that is too low can be harmful to amphibians.

To check the pH level of your pond, you can use a pH test kit. If you notice that the pH level is not within the correct range, you may need to adjust it using a pH buffer.



6. Clean the pond filter

If you have a pond filter, it is essential to clean it regularly. The filter plays a crucial role in removing excess nutrients from the water, which can prevent the growth of algae and other harmful organisms.

Safety first: Before starting the cleaning process, ensure your own safety by wearing gloves and protective clothing. You may also need waterproof boots or waders, depending on the depth of the pond.

Turn off the pump: It's important to turn off the pump and disconnect the power supply before cleaning the filter. This ensures your safety and prevents any damage to the pump during the cleaning process.

Rinse the filter media: Depending on the type of filter you have, you may need to rinse the filter media. This could be foam pads, filter mats, or biological media. Use a garden hose to gently rinse off any accumulated dirt and debris. Avoid using tap water, as it may contain chlorine or other chemicals that could harm the beneficial bacteria in the filter.

Clean the filter casing: If the filter casing has accumulated algae or dirt, use a soft brush or cloth to scrub it gently. Avoid using any harsh chemicals that could harm the wildlife in the pond. Use water from the pond to rinse off the casing.

Check and clean the pump: While you're cleaning the filter, it's a good idea to check the pump for any debris or blockages as well. Remove any leaves, twigs, or other objects that may have accumulated around the pump inlet. This will ensure proper water flow and prevent pump damage.

Reassemble and restart: Once the filter and pump are clean, reassemble them and ensure all connections are secure. Turn the pump back on and monitor its operation to make sure it's running smoothly.

Regular maintenance: Cleaning the filter should be a part of your regular maintenance routine. Depending on the size of the pond and the filter, you may need to clean it every few weeks or months. Observe the water quality and the performance of the filter to determine the cleaning frequency.



7. Get us to do it for you

Sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day. If that rings true to you, please get in touch to ask about our range of pond maintenance services from less than £9 per week.

To find out more, please contact Ryan Andrew on 07595 746561 or email ryan@pondpride.co.uk