

Ponds can be a haven for wildlife.
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Ponds can be a very important home for wildlife. They are just a smaller version of lake shorelines or wetlands. Even small ponds can provide a haven for beautiful wetland plants like marsh marigold or pickerelweed. Toads and frogs will lay their eggs and produce a batch of tadpoles that will provide hours of entertainment as they mature and turn into adults. You may even find that you are providing a meal of two for a great blue heron or a belted kingfisher.

One critical factor for pond wildlife is a gentle slope to the water. If the edges are too steep adult toads and frogs will be unable to get out of the water and will end up drowning or succumbing to exhaustion. Avoid the use of fertilizer and pesticides in areas that will drain into the pond. Also avoid non-native species that take over the pond or escape and spread. A good variety of vegetation, logs and stones will provide hiding places, resting areas and natural food sources. Once the micro ecosystem of your pond is in balance it should maintain a healthy population of wild things.

Many ponds are suffering from the drought conditions of the last few summers. Lower water levels and algae problems are common. There are no magic solutions to these problems. By assessing the site conditions and water sources a management strategy can be developed that will alleviate problems and create healthier aquatic conditions.