

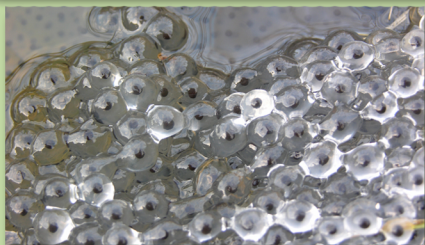
The Wildlife Garden Project

Mini Guide to Pond Dipping

Pond dipping is a great way to discover what lurks in the darkest corners of the watery world of your pond. Find delicate pond skaters or water boatmen skimming the surface or encounter ferocious dragonfly larvae and their smaller damselfly cousins skulking the depths, ready to gobble up unsuspecting pond life. Look out for what life may be on its way with wiggly little tadpoles or jelly-like egg sacs clinging to vegetation, as well as snails, beetles and more!



So how do you get started? It's simple! All you need are some nets to catch your pond life, some light coloured viewing trays and some identification charts. First, fill your trays with pond water. Next, swill your net around your pond and then empty into your tray. Carefully remove vegetation from your tray bit by bit to reveal what hides beneath. Use a magnifying glass to see even the tiniest of creatures, like spinning whirligig beetles or skinny bloodworms.



Always be careful when pond dipping and ask an adult to come with you. Don't put your hands near your mouth until you have washed your hands or you could get ill. Treat the wildlife with care: small creatures can be very delicate. Don't pick creatures out of the water and always return all wildlife back to the pond. Make sure you always pour them back in from close to the water's surface rather than from a height. Most importantly, have fun and don't fall in!



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