

Aquatic Plants

Ponds, Dams and Wetlands

Ponds, dams, wetlands and raingardens enhance the beauty of your garden and supplement its habitat values. This section lists some of the more common and accessible local native plants that are suitable to grow in and around your water feature. Aquatic plants may be floating or emergent - those that are rooted in the soil but which can tolerate being partially submerged.



Water Snowflake

White flowers in spring-summer

1



Nardoo

Leaves vary from light green to rustic brown

2



Azolla

Spreads rapidly especially in warm weather - can carpet ponds or dams. Fronds plants may be green or red dependant on sun/shade levels

3



Duck Weed

Although commonly called Duck Weed this is a native plant - not an environmental weed. Very small green leaves up to 1 cm

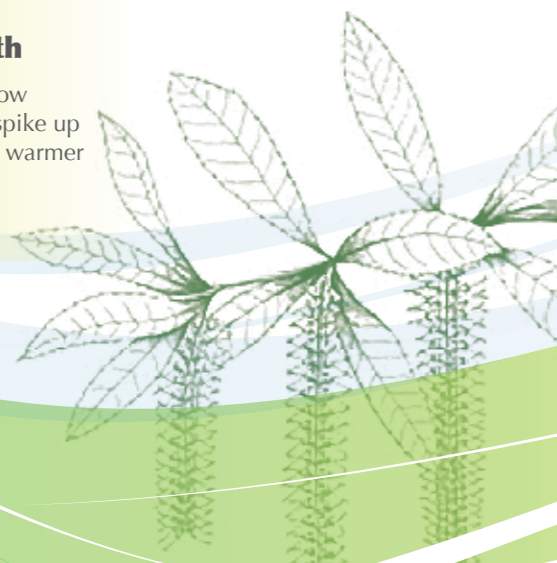
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Frogmouth

Beautiful yellow flowers on a spike up to 1m long in warmer months

5



SAFETY & HEALTH

Whenever installing ponds, dams or wetlands make sure they are safe, especially for young children. Details on safety and water bodies can be obtained from state and local government agencies. Another health consideration is to ensure that mosquitoes are not breeding in your pond.

POND MANAGEMENT

Many native animals including birds, frogs and dragonflies often visit small ponds, and if you are lucky, frogs may even breed in your pond. However be careful that you are not breeding cane toads.

There is a fact sheet to keep toads out of your pond at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/cane-toads

Although it is great to invite frogs to come to your pond to breed you are not permitted to move or breed frogs without a license. This is to ensure that diseases are not spread through our native frog populations.

Visit: www.frogs.org.au for more information. Another consideration is that an overabundance of plants can cause the water to deoxygenate, so you may need to install an aeration system.

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HABIT	SUN REQUIREMENTS	WATER REQUIREMENTS
1	Water Snowflake	<i>Nymphoides indica</i>	Perennial water lily with floating stolons and leaves	Full sun or part shade	Grows in still and slow flowing water up to 2 m deep
2	Nardoo	<i>Marsilea mutica</i>	Perennial fern with four clover-like floating leaflets	Full sun or semi-shade	Grows in still or slow flowing water up to 60cm deep
3	Azolla	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Perennial free-floating aquatic fern	Full sun or shade	Grows in still or slow flowing water with adequate nutrient levels
4	Duck Weed	<i>Lemna</i> spp.	Perennial free-floating plant	Sun or shade	Grows in still or slow flowing water with adequate nutrient levels
5	Frogmouth	<i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i>	Perennial emergent aquatic plant which grows to 2m	Sun or partial shade	Grows on edge of ponds and dams, shallow water & wet soils
6	Jointed Twig-rush	<i>Baumea articulata</i>	Perennial emergent aquatic plant which grows to 2.5 m	Prefers full sun	Grows in water up to 1m deep often in deep mud
7	Common Spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Perennial emergent aquatic plant less than 1 m	Prefers full sun	Grows in water up to 45 cm deep
8	Tassel Sedge	<i>Carex fascicularis</i>	Perennial emergent plant to 1 m tall	Semi-shade	Grows in wet soil or on the edge of dams or slow flowing waterways
9	Water Primrose	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> ssp. <i>montevidensis</i>	Perennial emergent plant	Full sun or partial shade	Grows in dams or slow flowing waterways
10	Smartweeds or Knotweeds	<i>Persicaria</i> spp.	Perennial emergent aquatic plants	Full sun or part shade	Grows in water up to 1m deep

Jointed Twig-rush

Can spread to a thick stand therefore best for dams and larger ponds. Attractive seed heads

6



Common Spike-rush

Thin cylindrical stems

7



Tassel Sedge

Showy yellow-green fronds, drooping inflorescence

8



Water Primrose

Bright yellow flowers

9



Smartweeds or Knotweeds

Flowers vary in colour between species though usually white or pink. These species readily regenerate naturally in ponds and dams. The species pictured is Slender Knotweed and is a native species. If you have knotweeds regenerating, check that they are one of the native species

10



Jabiru
Photo: Deborah Pearce

The Byron Bay Integrated Water Management Reserve (Byron Bay Wetlands) provides an engineering solution to integrating the principles of Water Sensitive Urban Design into the human environment.

The Byron Bay Wetlands are situated in the low-lying parts of the shire within the Belongil Catchment. Byron Shire Council diverts highly treated effluent from the Byron Bay Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) through the wetlands prior to release into

the Belongil Creek, Estuary and Cape Byron Marine Park. The award-winning wetlands provide a natural way to treat and remove pollutants before the treated effluent enters our local water ways.

The Byron Bay Wetland cells, densely planted with native plants, have evolved to provide important habitat for many species. The 100 hectares have become an integral part of the Belongil landscape and provide a safe habitat for over 200 species of birds.