

# How much light will your water garden need?

A sunny spot is essential to keep a pond healthy. A pond is home to a complex balance of plants and animals and needs the right conditions to keep it healthy, so when choosing a site consider the occupants and think location, location, location...

Sunlight keeps oxygenating plants alive, well and doing their job. These plants are essential to water gardens as they produce oxygen, which stops the water turning stagnant and smelly, and creates a healthy environment for everything that lives in the pond, from fish to plants.

Shade is fine for a water feature that does not support wildlife, but it's not a good choice for a pond with plants and fish.

Don't put a pond close to trees and shrubs. The leaves fall in and rot, filling the pond with sludge that will foul the water. Tree roots can also be a problem as they can work their way through the pond liner, causing leaks. If you have no choice there is help. You can install a net over your water garden, especially in fall, to prevent leaves from falling into the water.

Most water plants need full sun to flower. If there isn't enough light, water lilies will only grow leaves.



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Water hyacinth in flower.