



## Be Plant Wise Messages

### BE PLANT WISE

- Our waterways are being invaded by invasive aquatic plants.
- Invasive aquatic plants can spread rapidly in the wild, outcompeting British plants, killing fish, invertebrates and animals and increasing flood risk as they block waterways.
- Owners of pond and water features can play an important part to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic plants in the wild.

### KNOW WHAT YOU GROW

- Make sure you know what you are growing in your pond.
- Pick the right plants for your pond and care for them properly. Ask for advice from your local retailer.
- Invasive aquatic plants can take over garden ponds and damage natural habitats if they are not managed correctly.
- Floating pennywort, parrot's feather, New Zealand pigmyweed (also known as Australian swamp stonecrop), water-primrose and water fern are five of the worst offenders.

### STOP THE SPREAD

- Gardeners can unwittingly be responsible for assisting the spread of invasive aquatic plants from garden ponds, water features and fish tanks by disposing of the plants and water incorrectly.
- Help prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants by not moving plants around.
- Even the tiniest fragment of a plant can lead to huge problems.
- Any waste water from your pond should be disposed of away from streams, rivers and ponds or drains that flow into them. You could use excess water on your lawn or flower beds.
- Do not introduce your aquatic plants into the wild; this can cause huge problems for the environment and you could be breaking the law.

### COMPOST WITH CARE

- You should always dispose of aquatic plants by composting them or placing them in your green bin.
- Before composting, plants should be left to dry out beside the pond so that pond animals can return to the water.
- Be careful to ensure you dispose the entire plant responsibly as even tiny fragments can cause huge problems.
- Don't dump aquatic plants in the wild, this could be illegal and the plants could damage the environment.