

# ALL CHOKED UP!

## PREVENT POND PESTS

DON'T BUY THEM – DON'T SPREAD THEM

Floating pennywort



*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

Australian swamp stonecrop



*Crassula helmsii*

Parrot's feather



*Myriophyllum aquaticum*

Campaign by

water for wildlife

Supported by: The Wildlife Trusts • The Environment Agency • Water UK • British Waterways • English Nature • Centre for Aquatic Plant Management • Plantlife

Pond pests are exotic plants that escape from garden ponds into the wild, choking our rivers, ponds and waterways and damaging our native wildlife.

Water fern



*Azolla filiculoides*

Water fern



*Azolla filiculoides*

Water primrose



*Ludwigia grandiflora* (aka *Jussiaea*)

Curly waterweed



*Lagarosiphon major*

### Why are pond pests a problem?

Not all exotic species are harmful, but many are causing real problems in our towns and countryside. Invasive plant pests grow rapidly, blocking and shading the river bed and taking over from native plant species. Large sums of money are spent every year cleaning these plant pests out of waterways, ponds and lakes. They can also create a flood risk.

### What action can you take as a consumer?

If you see these plants on sale, **PLEASE DO NOT BUY THEM** and alert the store manager to the problems they cause. These plants may be sold under different names, so check with the supplier if you are not sure. If you have these plants in your garden and need to dispose of all or some of them, **DO NOT PUT THEM DOWN THE DRAIN OR IN THE RUBBISH**; instead compost, burn or bury them. Do not transfer any plants, frogspawn or anything else between ponds as this may spread these invasive plants. Use alternative oxygenators such as spiked water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), rigid hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) or common water starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*) – see The Wildlife Trusts' website for more information.

### How you can help as a supplier?

Please ensure that customers are aware of the dangers of buying these invasive species and their impact on the environment. Stock alternative oxygenating plants. Please display a copy of our free Pond Pests poster. See horticultural code of practice at: [www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/non-native/pdf/non-nativecop.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/non-native/pdf/non-nativecop.pdf)

### Further information



Contact your local Wildlife Trust for a free Pond Pests poster and accompanying information sheet. You can also download these online, find out more about this campaign and sign our online petition/pledge to 'prevent pond pests' by visiting [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)

Other useful websites include:  
[www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk)  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)  
[www.water.org.uk](http://www.water.org.uk)  
[www.capm.org.uk](http://www.capm.org.uk)  
[www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)  
[www.pondstrust.org.uk](http://www.pondstrust.org.uk)

This postcard has been produced by Water for Wildlife (a collaboration project between The Wildlife Trusts, Water UK and The Environment Agency). Advice, support and assistance was also provided by British Waterways, English Nature, The Centre for Aquatic Plant Management and Plant Life.

**PLEASE JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO HELP PREVENT POND PESTS!**

water for wildlife