



*Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed*

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# All About Ponds

## Site Selection

The most important factor you should consider when planning your pond is location. Your pond should be placed at a location where you will be able to enjoy it, preferably close to your house or deck. The pond must be satisfying to view and easily accessible. If some of the items mentioned below are unavoidable, they can still be managed.

1. Avoid areas of excessive shade as too much can limit the types of plants you can grow. Ponds should ideally have large amounts of sun (at least 4-6 hours/day). Southern exposure is best if possible.
2. Avoid areas near established trees. Leaves falling into a pond in large quantities, if not removed, fruit and leaves release toxic substances which can adversely affect water quality.
3. Avoid the lowest area in your yard. This spot is usually the wettest and runoff collects in these areas resulting in debris in the pond. See where the debris blows to and avoid those areas.
4. Do not put your pond over utility services to your home. If you don't know where they are contact 'CALL BEFORE YOU DIG (800-USA-DIGS).
5. Avoid building your pond too close to your foundation. Allow a minimum of two feet as digging too close can weaken the side wall of the pond. Leave enough room to walk around the entire pond, for safety reasons and for cleaning.
6. Ground composition can be a factor. Dig a hole in the area you have selected to see what will be required for excavation. Clay soils and very sandy soils usually present the most issues.
7. Ponds built closer to a home have power and water more readily available and therefore may be less expensive. Wind carries sound with it, so place the noise making area close by or upwind slightly.
8. In order to get an idea how your pond will look, use a rope or garden hose to design (outline) the pond. Map out utilities and filtration systems also. Cardboard boxes can be used to simulate the headwaters. An old sheet can also simulate the pond or stream.
9. Remember that compromise is the key word. It is not usually possible to select a site that is perfect, so evaluate the shortcomings of the desired potential sites and select the best. Some of the shortcomings mentioned above are easier to live with than others, so take the time to make a good choice.