

Half-Barrel Pond

A miniature water garden can offer critical breeding habitat for insects and amphibians.

1. Choose a container, such as:

- A whiskey barrel cut in half.
 - Rinse it thoroughly. This process should also expand the slats enough to seal it.
- A rigid plastic liner inside the barrel, and skip the rinsing.
- Sturdy plastic, clay, or concrete containers.



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2. Next, choose a location:

- The area should receive no more than three hours of direct sunlight each day, otherwise algae will grow out of control.
- Place the container close to a water source, but away from shedding trees and shrubs.

3. With your container in place:

- Fill your container with water.
- Wait at least 36 hours for chlorine to evaporate before adding plants.
- Place native aquatic plants in pots on submerged flat rocks or bricks within the water.
 - Soak them thoroughly before you submerge them in the container.
 - Use heavy loam mixed with a bit of clay and well-rotted (not dried) cow manure for soil.
 - Top the soil with a thin layer of coarse sand or pea gravel to keep the water from growing cloudy.

4. Add water every week, letting the pool overflow for a few minutes.

- Rainwater is best. If this isn't an option, use water from a second container that has sat long enough to eliminate chlorine.
- Before winter freeze-up:
 - Remove the plants and store them in a cool, dark spot such as a basement. Keep the soil evenly moist, not wet. By spring, your plants may look quite forlorn, but they'll soon perk up in their mini pond.
 - Empty the water from the container and scrub it well (no chemicals).
 - Set aside the empty container to wait for next spring.

For additional resources visit:

CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education