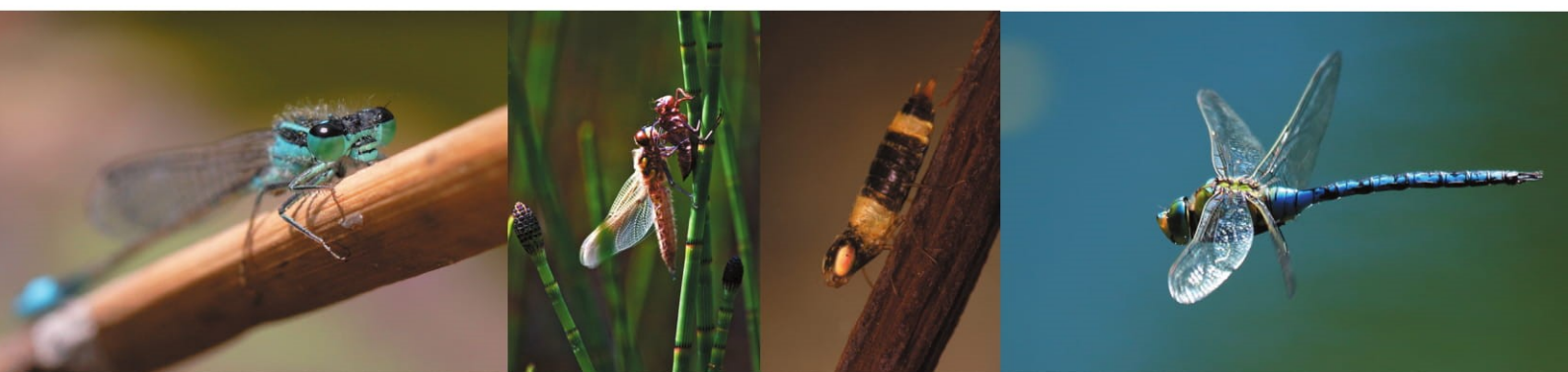




A BRIEF GUIDE TO GARDEN PONDS FOR DRAGONFLIES

In Britain 3 species of dragonfly have become extinct in the last 50 years and 1/3 of the remainder are rare and localised



Dragonflies spend most of their lives underwater in their larval form. Therefore ponds and other water bodies are essential for these stunning insects to complete their lifecycle. Over the past 100 years it has been estimated that one million ponds have been filled in. With fewer ponds, dragonflies need our help. By digging a pond you will be replacing a habitat that has been lost.

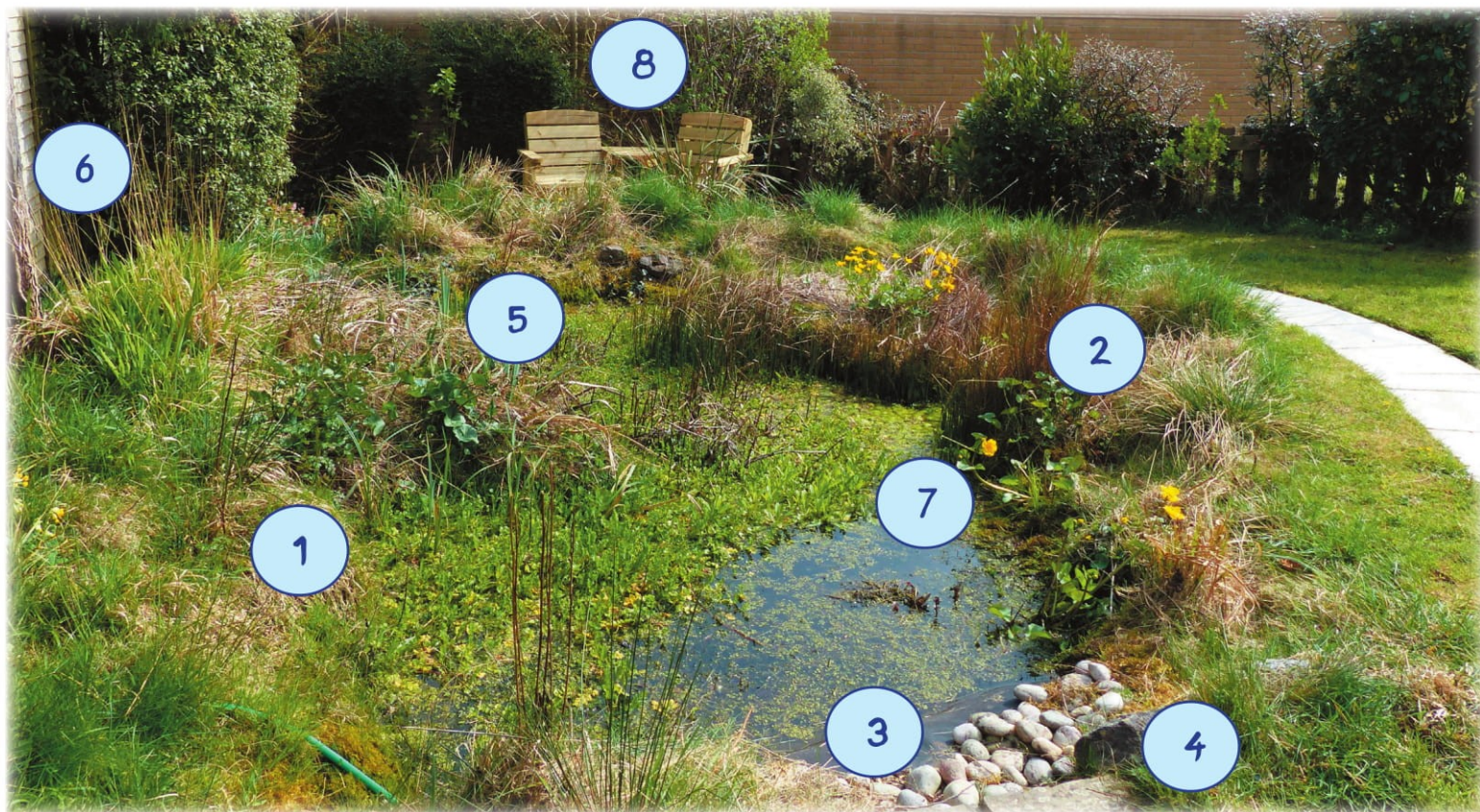
TOP TIPS FOR A DRAGONFLY POND

The bigger the better However, if you don't have much room a small pond can still support dragonflies and damselflies and is well worth making. Multiple small ponds can also be an effective way of providing for dragonflies in your garden.

Only use native plants Non native plants can spread easily into the countryside and have devastating effects on our native plants and wildlife. Waste soil can make a bank to act as a windbreak.

Do not stock your pond with fish They will eat dragonfly larvae and can also cause your pond to become enriched, reducing oxygen available for invertebrates and amphibians. Allow your pond to fill with rainwater if possible.

EXAMPLE OF A GOOD GARDEN POND



- 1 Gently sloping sides and undulating outline
- 2 Emergent vegetation for emerging larvae and perching and egg laying adults
- 3 Submerged and floating vegetation for larvae and perching and egg laying adults
- 4 Bankside rocks, stones and moss for egg laying and basking
- 5 Shallow areas in the east and west, deeper in the middle
- 6 Nearby sunlit wood, rock or brick and hedges as shelter for adults
- 7 Areas of open water for larvae and egg laying adults
- 8 An area to sit and enjoy your pond!

For more information read 'Dig a Pond for Dragonflies' which can be found on our website:

www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

Charity number 1168300

Photography Credits: Top: Tim Coleshaw. Below: left-right: David Kitching, David Kitching and Dennis Swaby; pond: Dave Smallshire