

Frequently Asked Questions:



Do I need to have a pond to grow the plant in?

No, please do not put your plant in your pond. A space in the garden or a sunny windowsill will be great, leaving your plant standing in a saucer full of water.

Do I need any special equipment to grow my plant in?

No, we will provide you with everything you need to ensure that your plant can grow happily. This might be a pot with some compost or a small tank of water, depending on the species.

I only have a small windowsill, will that be enough space?

Non-aquatic plants come in saucers which are 6" in diameter and should comfortably fit on most windowsills. Aquatic plants, which are kept in larger buckets or trays, are unlikely to fit on most windowsills.

How do I water my plant?

Please water your plant from the saucer. Although these plants are wetland plants they may still get water-logged and drown. If you water from the saucer, the plant will be able to absorb all the water needed through its roots.

If you find that the top soil is very dry through watering your plant this way, try watering it from the top once a week and see if it picks up. The soil should always be at least a bit moist, although they can usually withstand drying out slightly for a day or two.

Plants that come in buckets or trays need topping up with water when the water level falls below half-way.

Are the plants toxic?

Potentially. We do recommend that children and vulnerable adults are accompanied by their parents or guardians whilst caring for the plants, and that you wear gloves when handling your plant and wash your hands well afterwards.

I'm afraid I might kill the plant but would still like to give it a go!

Not a problem if the plant dies, it's all part of the project to see what works and what doesn't. We don't expect all the plants to survive.

Can I keep some plants/seeds for my own pond?

We are not currently allowing people to keep these plants. We have already chosen specific, high-quality wetland habitats where we know that these plants have a good chance at becoming established

What should I do if my plant dies?

Please keep hold of it and return it! It may only have died back for winter and it's root system could still be alive. Get in touch and let us know, we will try to help you figure out what happened.

Do I need to feed or fertilise my plant?

No. For potted plants, the compost we provide will contain sufficient nutrition for your plant while it's with you. Any added fertiliser could compromise the health of the wetlands that your plant will be planted out into.

Do I need rain water to grow the plant?

Rainwater is preferable, however, tap water should be fine for most species.

What should I do with my plant if I go on holiday?

To ensure your plant has enough water for the duration of your holiday you can put it in the bath tub or in a sink that has plenty of water in. Or you could give your plant to a family member or friend along with the instructions so they know how to look after it.

Do I need to fill in the survey questions?

We would greatly appreciate you filling these in as we believe it is a good learning opportunity for volunteers and it will provide very useful information for us. You could also send us photo updates if you'd like to at the email address below. We would love to see how your plants are getting on!

What else can I do to help freshwater habitats?

Freshwater Habitats Trust is always looking for new fen restoration volunteer at Hinksey Heights Golf Club and volunteers to help out at events. If you'd like to find out what other volunteering opportunities there are, please see the volunteer section on our website.

Any further questions?

Email: eevery@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

