

# How to plant garden areas that hold moisture

by Waterside Nursery



*Waterside  
Nursery*

[watersidenursery.co.uk](http://watersidenursery.co.uk)





# Contents

---

Tip 1	What can you plant there?	3
Tip 2	Moist or Muddy Bog Plants	4
Tip 3	Choosing varieties: Which plants and why?	5
Tip 4	What can you achieve?	6
FAQs	Answering your questions	7
	Final thoughts	8
	Contact information	9



# Tip 1


## What can you plant there?


Even the most green fingered amongst us can struggle when it comes to damp/wet areas in our gardens. Unless the correct types of plants are chosen for these areas it can be difficult for them to become established or even survive.

Fear not, there is a simple solution. Use moisture loving plants or waterlogged soil plants which will transform an otherwise unused area of your garden into a point of real interest.

### Is your area waterlogged or moist?

When it comes to choosing plants for a wet area (that isn't a pond!), you should distinguish whether you have moist conditions or a more muddy bog, waterlogged situation.

To test this you can dig a spades depth into the proposed area, checking whether there is standing water in the hole you've just created. If there is, this is a waterlogged area that will grow plants that can tolerate their roots being submerged in water, also referred to as muddy bog plants, marginal plants or shallow shelf pond plants. Shown on the website as .

If the soil is drained, damp/moist but not waterlogged then moisture loving plants will thrive well. Shown on the website as .

When purchasing plants, always be sure to differentiate between moist and muddy bog plants and choose the right ones for your soil conditions.



### Linda's Top Tip

*If this area has standing water in Winter that is another sign it is more suited to muddy bog plants so stick to these to avoid any unwanted losses!*





# Tip 2

## Moist or Muddy Bog Plants

### Linda's Top Tip

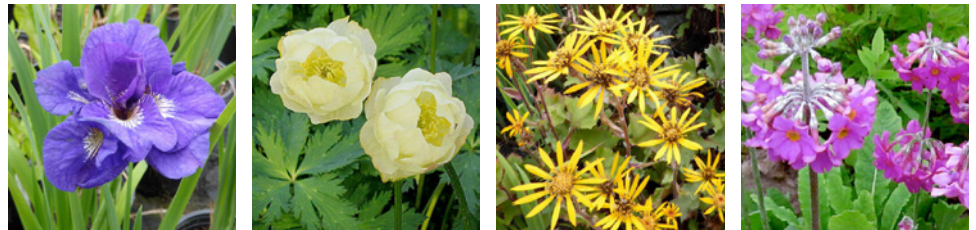
*Use our prepared planting schemes to get the right mix of plants by selecting either the moist or the muddy bog planting scheme option.*

### Moist plants

Moist loving plants need some moisture in the soil at all times. However they will not tolerate their crowns or roots fully submerged in water or wet mud for a long time. This situation would result in a moist plants' roots rotting and starving the plant of water and nutrient.

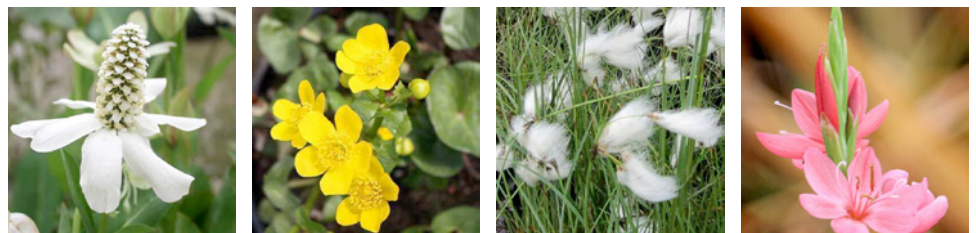
Moist plants are in a grouping of their own between aquatic plants seen in a pond or muddy bog garden and those in a drier garden border.

A lot of plants commonly seen in garden borders have relations that are also suited to moist conditions; Iris, Primula or Geum, to name but a few so be careful to choose the right one.



### Muddy Bog plants

Muddy Bog plants are tolerant of greater amounts of water around the roots as the majority are also suited to being submerged on a shallow pond shelf. This enables you to have varieties that can feature in a bog garden that are ordinarily seen only in ponds or lakes.







# Tip 3

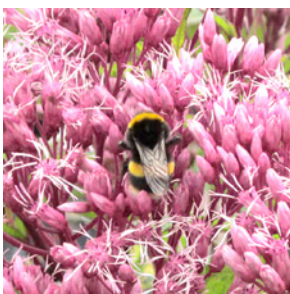
## Choosing varieties: Which plants & why?

### Linda's Top Tip

*Avoid double flowers as they are not 'Perfect for Pollinators'*

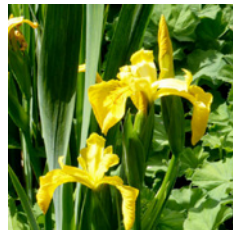
### Attracting wildlife

Moist and Muddy bog plants are an easy way of attracting wildlife to your garden. They can encourage many insect pollinators such as butterflies, hoverflies, wasps and bees. To attract these creatures, search for plants with the 'Perfect for pollinators' tag or the bee symbol.

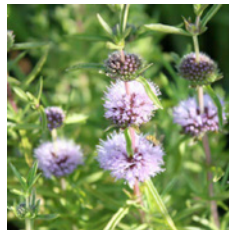


### Native vs. Non-native

A popular misconception can be that only Native plants are appropriate for those keen on wildlife watching. However, Non-Native plants also attract wildlife in exactly the same way without any problems. There are plenty of hardy, Non-Native options to choose from.



Native bog



Non-native bog



Native moist

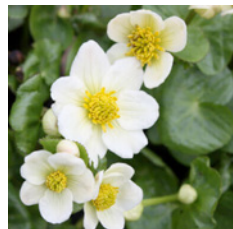


Non-native moist

### Flower for the entire season

So you want interest in the form of flower for the entire season? This is very easily achievable.

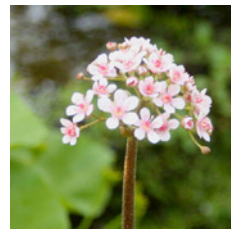
Mix and match your choice of plants to gain all season round interest. Aim to have some plants flowering every month by mixing Natives and Non-Natives.



Early flowering bog



Late flowering bog



Early flowering moist



Late flowering moist





# Tip 4

## What can you achieve?

**These are some photos from our customer gallery:**

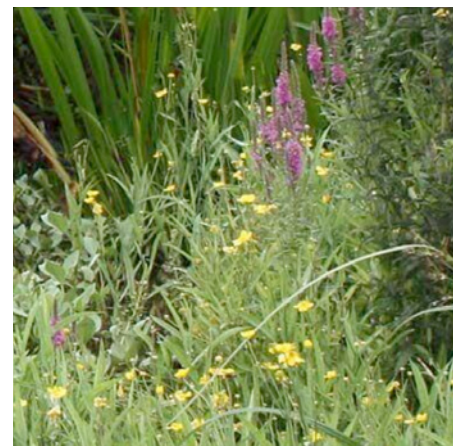
Garden areas planted with moist plants;

### Linda's Top Tip

*Use bog plants to create a wetland habitat and you may find dragonflies and damselflies mating on the upright stems of these plants near the water*



Garden areas planted with bog plants;



As you will notice the bog plants tend to give a 'wilder look' that works as a wildlife habitat around a pond.





# FAQs

---

## Answering your questions

### Linda's Top Tip

*As a guide we think 9 plants for every square metre is a good starting point for a planting plan if you choose a mix of smaller and larger growing plants.*

### **I don't have a damp area, how do I create one?**

There is no one definitive method in creating a bog garden. A favoured method by us however is to dig your hole, line with a cheap membrane to hold the water, pierce holes in the membrane and fill with humus rich soil to plant into. For a more in depth guide on how to build a bog area visit the Tips and Advice pages at [watersidenursery.co.uk/tips-advice](http://watersidenursery.co.uk/tips-advice)

### **How do I water the prepared area I have created?**

Use a length of porous hose that slowly drips all along its length when it is attached to a water butt or hose. The number of holes you made to the membrane will determine how moist/wet it stays.

### **Does a man-made moist or muddy bog plant area have to be next to a pond?**

Visually moist and muddy boggy plants look at home next to water where nature intended. The reflections of some of their big leaves and tall flowers look good seen in water. But they do not have to be near water. You could build a specially prepared area anywhere if you wanted to add either of these groups of plants to your garden but did not want to add open water.

### **What happens to Non Native plants over winter?**

Every single plant that we sell is fully Winter hardy in Britain if planted in the correct position, including Non Natives. However, if you are purchasing plants from elsewhere always be sure to check before planting as some Non Native species may be susceptible to ice.



## Final thought...

*Thank you for taking the time to read our guide on 'How to plant garden areas that hold moisture'. We at Waterside Nursery also hope that you will take the time to sign up for any future guides we will publish.*

*If you feel like showing off your own efforts then please send any pictures to us via the e-mail address below and we would be more than happy to post any pictures on our customer gallery on the website.*

*Thanks again and happy planting!*

***Linda & Phil***

***Waterside Nursery***

*We also offer a wide breadth of products to make your ponds, bog and moist areas successful features in your garden.*

- Pond plants
- Waterlilies & surface cover plants
- Oxygenating pond plants
- British native pond plants
- Container ponds
- Planting schemes
- Pond products
- Moist & Bog plants

## More about Waterside Nursery

Waterside Nursery is one of the UK's leading online mail order services for aquatic plants.

We have been growing plants in our Nursery in Leicestershire, UK since 1995 and have won 5 Chelsea Gold Medals for Aquatic plants since 2011.





# Contact

07931 557 082

01455 273 730 (after hours)

[info@watersidenursery.co.uk](mailto:info@watersidenursery.co.uk)



*Waterside  
Nursery*

[watersidenursery.co.uk](http://watersidenursery.co.uk)