



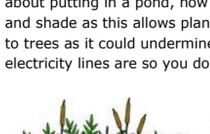
### Welcome to our world!

We are John and Angie Lapham. Welcome to our February newsletter. We will be re-opening Le Jardin d'Eden on 15<sup>th</sup>

March and will have various plants, shrubs and trees ready

for your spring planting. New for 2014 is a summer house where we will be serving tea/ coffee and home-made cakes

and stocking small gift items.

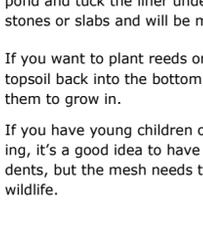


### Issue 8—February 2014



### Ponds

This month's subject for planning your 2014 garden is all about ponds. If you've been thinking about putting in a pond, now is the time to start digging! Choose an area that has both sun and shade as this allows plants to grow, but keeps algae to a minimum. Don't build it too near to trees as it could undermine their root system and ensure that you know where gas/ electricity lines are so you don't accidentally hit any when you start digging!

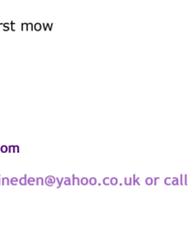


It's a good idea to dig it at least 2ft deep (60cm) at its deepest part so that it reduces the chance of the pond completely freezing in winter. It's also a good idea to have gently sloping sides down to the deepest part of the pond as this makes it more wildlife-friendly. Keep the topsoil you dig out as this can be used to edge the pond later and ensure you've removed any sharp stones from the hole and sides of the hole. Then line the hole and sides with a layer of sand, then add a layer of biodegradable material such as newspaper or burlap. Then you're ready to fit your pond liner.

Once your liner is in place, you can fill your pond with water. Trim the overhanging liner outside the pond to about 5 inches (12cm), then, using a spade put a slit in the grass around the pond and tuck the liner underneath. This gives a neat edge, which you can hold in place with stones or slabs and will be more inviting to wildlife.

If you want to plant reeds or lilies, you'll need to dump some of the topsoil back into the bottom of the pond so there is something for them to grow in.

If you have young children or are likely to have grandchildren visiting, it's a good idea to have a strong mesh cover to avoid any accidents, but the mesh needs to be wide enough to allow access for wildlife.



### Jobs in the garden in February

- Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some under cover
- Prune winter flowering shrubs
- Prune weak growth from early summer-flowering clematis and cut late-flowering clematis back to 15-30cm from the ground
- Prune wisteria and buddlejias
- Divide bulbs such as snowdrops and plant those that need 'planting in the green'
- Net fruit and vegetable plots to keep the birds off
- Service your lawn mower and garden power tools ready for the first mow
- Clear away debris from around and in your pond
- Dig over the vegetable garden, adding compost or manure

As always, if we can help with any queries, please contact us.

For more information, visit our website... [www.lejardineden.wordpress.com](http://www.lejardineden.wordpress.com)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us at [lejardineden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lejardineden@yahoo.co.uk) or call on 05 45 31 43 55.