

What is the easiest way to control duckweed?

Complete control of duckweed is nearly impossible and not necessary for a healthy pond. To remove excess and stop it reaching nuisance levels, try the following options:

- **Quarantine new pond plants** – keep new (or shared) aquatic plants in a bucket of water for a few weeks before introducing them to your pond. If duckweed appears in the bucket, keep removing it by hand until the water stays clear.
- **Remove duckweed by hand** – use a net or rake to regularly scoop fronds from the water. Do this weekly during the summer months when duckweed numbers can double every few days. Removed duckweed can be added to your [home compost](#) or [green waste recycling](#) bin.
- **Use a floating boom on larger ponds** – sweep a boom from end to end to collect duckweed and make removal with a net easier. Booms can be as simple as a wooden batten or old pool noodle, or there are specialist booms available from pond suppliers.
- **Install a fountain** – this disturbs the water surface, making it more difficult for duckweed to grow and spread.
- **Stock your pond with floating-leaved pond plants** – duckweed doesn't compete well with other floating [aquatic plants](#), like [waterlilies](#), so keeping ponds well stocked helps to reduce their numbers. Having some of the water surface covered with vegetation is also beneficial for [pond wildlife](#).
- **Remove debris** – leaves and other rotting vegetation increase the nutrient content of pond water, encouraging duckweed growth. Place mesh over your pond to collect leaves as they fall in autumn or use a hand net to remove any that land in the water.
- **Create some shade over your pond** – duckweed grows and spreads fastest in full sun. Create shade by planting tall [marginals](#) on the south bank of the pond.
- **Fit stop-boards at upstream inlets** – this prevents duckweed entering ponds via waterways.
- **Introduce duckweed grazers** – in large ponds you could consider introducing fish, such as goldfish, koi and grass carp, or water birds, such as domestic ducks, to eat duckweed.

- **Use a non-chemical duckweed treatment** – [Ecopond](#) Duckweed Control contains a bacterial culture that removes nutrients from the water to discourage duckweed. According to the manufacturers, it is best applied in spring as soon as duckweed growth is seen.
- *Should I use weedkiller?*
- No – there are no chemical treatments or weedkillers approved for use by home gardeners for the control of duckweed. Although time-consuming, duckweed numbers can easily be kept in check using the methods described above.