

1. Water features the Water Wise way:
2. How water wise is my pond / bog garden?

## 1. Water features the Water Wise way:

- Aim for minimum size, with maximum effect and limited open pans of water.
- Plant water plants that cover the water surface area and reduce evaporation.
- Aim to locate water features in the shade to limit evaporation.
- Design to ensure that no splashing occurs.
- Swamp type plants cope well with household waste water for example *Typha capensis* (Bulrush).
- When constructing a pond, use solid surface construction material for example; cement or glass fibre in preference to clay or soil that allows water to infiltrate through it causing a water loss.
- Homeowners with existing water features should assess their water feature based on the following criteria and establish as to whether or not any alternations or management of the water feature could assist in reducing water loss.

## 2. How Water Wise is my pond / bog garden?

- Does it leak?
- Does it splash water?
- Is it placed away from a focal area at the back of the house, where the effect is lost?
- Does it only use tap water or does run off rainwater also collect into it?
- Is it only large and very shallow (30cm) or does it have some good, deep areas with reduced surface area? (Reducing the surface area reduces evaporation.)
- Is it partially shaded or in the shade to reduce evaporation?
- Does your dog run through it several times a day, splashing water all over?
- Growing plants with creeping rhizomes, such as *Typha* and reeds, next to ponds that are

plastic lined can be detrimental to the lining of the pond and need to be checked.

- Fine sprayers or fountains with a fine spray lose a lot of water due to evaporation.
- Check level of pond daily to see if it drops dramatically, if so check for leaks.
- If placed in an area of high wind, this will increase evaporation.
- Old ponds manufactured of concrete need to be checked for cracks and leaks.
- Fountains with coarse droplets help reduce atomisation into the atmosphere.
- Plant water plants that cover the water surface area and reduce evaporation.
- Place one water feature strategically in a focal area to get the greatest effect rather than several scattered around the garden.
- Avoid water features that require a continuous supply of new water. Aim rather for self-contained, recirculating water. For example, avoid the dripping tap type feature that drains into the landscape.
- Avoid extravagant high pressure movement in fountains and waterfalls as these have high evaporation rates.
- Limit animal / bird or other traffic through the water which causes water to splash or be absorbed.
- Dark pigment colours on the inside of water features cause temperatures to rise and encourage evaporation.