

### **How long will it take to clean? How often will it be cleaned?**

Cleaning will begin Monday, December 6 and we are expecting it to be completed within a week. Once cleaned, we'll be monitoring the pond to develop a long-term management plan.

### **Why are you cleaning the pond?**

The last time the pond was cleaned was more than a decade ago. Because our pond has a cement bottom that doesn't allow the natural cycling of nutrients, decaying organic matter has created a thick layer of anaerobic debris. Over time, this has created an inhospitable environment for our plants and our turtles.

### **Will you be using the water in the pond?**

Some of the water from the pond will be used to irrigate the adjacent beds and native landscape throughout The Garden. Any solid material will be incorporated into our compost and used in future Garden plantings.

### **Why does it smell so bad?**

The cleaning process is going to stir up the decaying organic matter which will could cause a strong, unpleasant odor in the immediate area of the pond. This odor will dissipate within a few days.

### **What will happen to the turtles?**

While the pond is being cleaned, we have made special accommodations for our two turtle friends to keep them safe. The cleaning is expected to last a week during which time the turtles will be looked after by our Garden staff. They will be promptly returned to their pond once the work is complete.

### **What native plants should I consider for a backyard pond?**

Many CA native plants can be used in a pond.

Mosquitofern (*Azolla filiculoides*) is a duckweed-like fern that freely floats on still or slow-moving water. Seep monkeyflower (*Erythranthe guttata*) blooms with beautiful yellow snapdragon-like flowers, growing well slightly submerged or along the bank of a pool or creek. If you are looking for grass-like texture for shallow water, consider a native rush like Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*).