

## The Pro-crate

Dutch Water Tech partnered with bioplastics producer Rodenburg Biopolymers and injection molding specialist Omefa to develop and commercialize a crate structure with the aim to protect young plants from being eaten by waterfowl and fish to achieve better growth of the plants. The three parties jointly invested in a new mold, with financial support of the West-Brabant regional development company Rewin.

## Our Challenge

Marginal plants and submerged plants have a positive effect on water quality. They store nutrients and add oxygen. These plants prevent ponds to get colonized by algae, cyanobacteria and flab. Unfortunately these plants are on the menu of waterfowl and fish. Therefore we aimed to protect these plants against their natural enemy, to keep the water in the ponds naturally clean.



*Species such as hedgehog head eaten by birds and fish*

## Our approach

We designed biopolymer crate structures made from the bioplastic Solanyl. The structures will protect the vulnerable young shoots of the aquatic plants. The plants can develop undisturbed until the plants are strong and numerous enough to survive. The structure will lose its function after a few years and will start degrading. Therefore the structure does not need to be removed and does no long term harm to the environment.



*Fully degradable crates*

## Our Application

The modular design of the crate structures makes them suitable for any type of setting. The crates can also be customized to the required environment. Besides these crate structures, Dutch Water Tech provides delivery and planting of marginal plants and submerged aquatic plants. Several red list species are available, meaning that the WFD objectives are within reach.

