



guaranteed to inspire

WATER PLANTS & POND CARE

Setting up a pond for Water plants

Depth & location:

- Water Depth – 40cm or more for water lilies
- Position - sun 4 hrs per day minimum to get flowering or in shade (less algae)
- Pond in prominent position – want to enjoy it

How long to leave the water before adding fish:

- usually 24 hours – if you have used a sealer or any chemicals you need to empty water twice

Selecting fish:

- goldfish are colourful and easy to look after
- avoid Koi as they tend to destroy water plants - Floating pond pots are great for Koi

Do I need a filter? No – use natural oxygenators for a clear, healthy pond:

- Natural oxygenators provide food for fish, absorb nutrients and carbon dioxide from the water, return oxygen to the water, filter the water and trap sediment in their leaves. Examples of natural oxygenators are water plants such as Vallisneria, milfoil and hornwort. Aquatic snails help to reduce algae and add balance.

Varieties of pond plants and care requirements:

Deep water aquatics – (water lilies, water poppy, 4-leaf, lotus)

- Pond needs to be at least 400mm deep for water lilies. Use snowflake, water poppy, 4-leaf clover, vallis or similar for shallower ponds
- Full sun position – at LEAST 4 hours of sunlight per day to get lilies to flower
 - All lilies are dormant plants in winter so when they die off they are not dead - they will burst to life in spring/summer.
- Keep lilies away from Koi and Ducks (use floaties instead)
- Lilies should be situated away from flowing water (fountains) as the water may push the flowers under
- Good to have a mix of tropicals & hardies to get maximum flowers & leaves

Hardy water lilies:

- Usually keep more of their leaves over winter
- Spring to life earlier than tropicals, usually around October
- Only have one flower per plant at a time – when that flower has gone another will come
- Flowers sit low in the water – single flowers on a plant at any one time
- Limited colours – no blue or purple varieties
- Need re-potting every 2 years
- Easy to divide babies of the tuber in winter

Tropical water lilies:

- Almost completely deciduous over winter period
- Spring to life usually around early December
- Multiple flowers on each plant
- Flower stems stand high out of the water
- Larger range of colours available
- Some varieties have leaves the size of dinner plates
- Flower for a very long period – sometimes well into the winter.
- Re-pot every 2 years (in winter)

Water Poppy:

- Small green oval leaves with yellow, poppy-like flowers in summer.
- Extremely fast grower, get babies very easily.

Snowflake:

- Small green oval leaves (similar to water lily leaves) with fluffy white flowers in warm weather.
- Babies grow from existing leaves
- Fast grower, multiply easily.
- Grow in full sun or part shade

Floating pond pots:

- Great for ponds with Koi in them as they cannot get to the roots of the plant.
- Pot with very light potting mix as they can sink.
- Line pot with newspaper first, add aquatic mix, add plant, top with small amount of crushed rock

Marginals:

- Do not like to be fully submerged.
- Plants grow quickly – may need to re-pot up to larger size every 6 months.
- Place them at a depth that just covers the top of the pot.
- They give a nice landscape effect, and provide shade, colour and shape to your pond.
Examples: Nile Reed, umbrella grass, rushes, sedges
- Avoid “restricted” plants: Water hyacinth, azolla, elodea, water lettuce, arrowhead, salvinia

Looking after your pond:

- Controlling algae – “Zeolite” is a natural product to help control algae simply sprinkle on the powder by hand and mix bacterium in water with a watering-can onto pond.

Water Plant Potting Instructions:

- Re-pot and fertilize in winter only.
- Use a basic potting mix with no added fertiliser
- Add one of the following fertilizers native osmocote, aquatic fertilizer tablets, blood & bone or dry cow manure.