



 **Gertens®**

# **Water Plants**

## **Guide**



# Table of Contents

OUR 3 MAIN CATEGORIES	3
Hardy Water Lilies	4
Tropical Water Lilies	9
Hardy Lotus	12
Cold Water Floating Plants	14
Tropical Floating Plants	16
Oxygenators	18
Native Marginal Pond Plants	20
Minnesota Hardy Marginals	22
Non-Hardy Marginals	24
Louisiana Iris	26

## OUR 3 MAIN CATEGORIES

# Lilies & Lotus

Gertens offers a ton of flowering lilies and lotus plants. Water lilies (*Nymphaea* species) leaves and flowers both float on the water's surface while lotus (*Nelumbo* species) leaves and flowers are emergent, or rise above the water's surface. There is one exception: tropical water lilies leaves float on the surface just like hardy lilies but their flowers rise above the surface of the water about 6-8 inches.

Lotus plants will also need more fertilizer than water lilies. Water lily blooms come in yellow, pink, red, pastel orange, and white. Lotus blooms come in white, pink, blue, purple, or yellow.

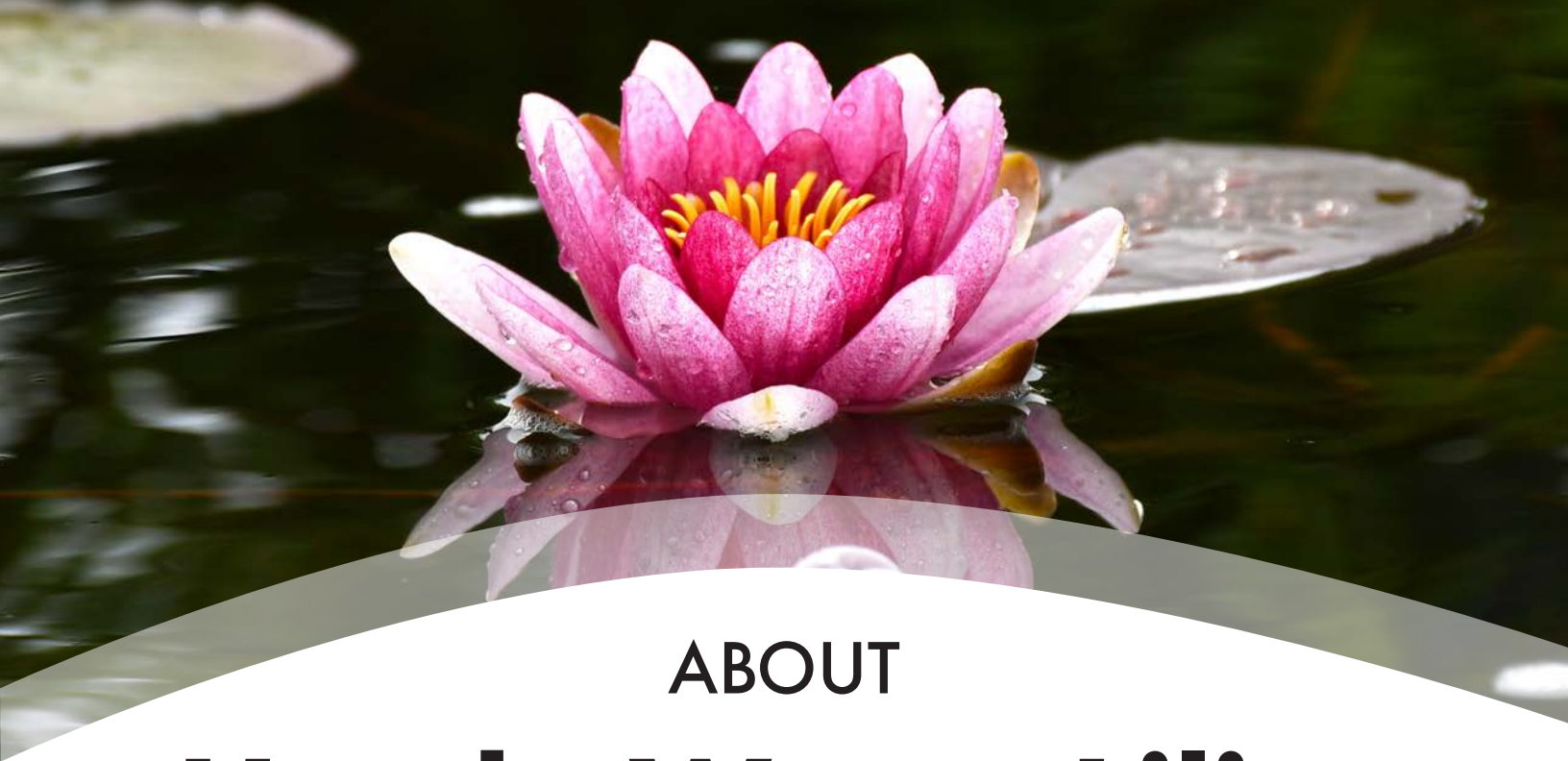
# Floating Plants

Gertens offers a wide variety of floating plants. These plants float freely on the surface of the pond. They shade and cool the water. Floating plants are often very effective nutrient sops and can reproduce quickly. Excellent for taking extra nutrient out of the water column to slow algae growth. Most floating plants are non-hardy, although we do have some zone 4 offerings.

Floating plants should never be introduced to a local waterway! Their quick reproduction means they can take over local waters quickly and become invasive.

# Marginal Pond Plants

These plants include offerings grown by Gertens, as well as brought in from other suppliers. Marginal pond plants are our largest, and most diverse category of pond plants. Marginals grow on the sides of the pond- some prefer to be grown in standing water, and some are true shoreline plants, preferring constantly moist soil, but not standing water. Marginals come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and heights. Some are perennials, some are marginally hardy, and some are tropicals. Marginals serve a variety of functions in the pond- as natural water filters, shade, protection for wildlife, and beauty of bloom and foliage.



## ABOUT

# Hardy Water Lilies

- Grow submerged in water from 18" to 3', depending on the variety
- Can range in plant diameter (on the water's surface) from 2'-20'
- Are heavy feeders, and should be fertilized at time of planting, and midsummer, using a pond friendly solid fertilizer. Some keepers may fertilize 1/month during the growing season
- Prefer full sun, but can be shade tolerant depending on the variety
- Can be repotted and split as the rhizomes age (minimum 3 years)
- Need still or slow moving water. Fast currents will slowly kill them, and splashing on leaves prevents respiration
- Suitability for a water feature depends on the plant size and sunlight available
- Stacking of leaves means plant is either A) in too small of a water feature, or B) the rhizome needs to be split

# Mini/Small Sized Water Lilies



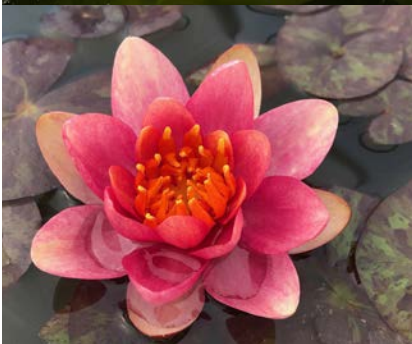
- **Black Princess** Very Dark red, slightly fragrant flowers 4" across, start early and go into fall. Generous bloomer. New leaves are purple. Spread of 3-5', hardy to zone 3, adaptable to water depth- between 6"-36". (Potted)



- **Chrysantha** Changeable yellow to orange flowers, lily pads are flecked with purple, hardy to Zone 3, spread 2-3 feet, plant 8-30" deep (potted)



- **Chromatella** Canary yellow, lightly scented blooms to 5" around. Good bloomer, suited to small containers. Hardy to zone 4, spread to 5', plant 6-18" deep (bare root)

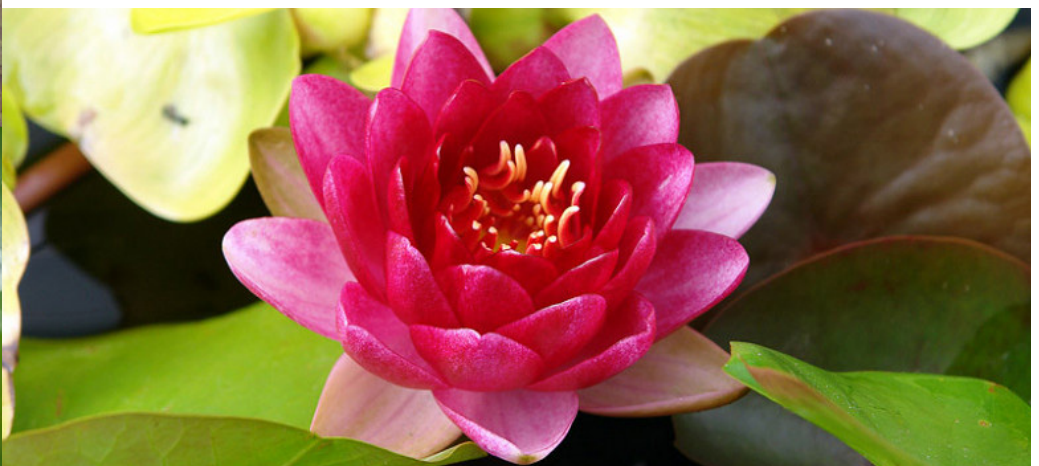


- **Indiana** Highly changeable blossoms start apricot pink and finish deep orange red. Petite 2-3" blossoms, 1-3' spread- great for small tubs. Hardy to zone 3, plant 6"-24" deep. (bareroot)



- **Patio Joe** Light Peach flowers to 5", similar to Colorado, but more adaptable to small containers. Hardy to zone 3, plant 8-30" deep.

- **Perry's Baby Red** 3" Deep red to magenta flowers, slightly fragrant. Hardy to Zone 4, 2'-4' spread, plant 6-18" deep. (bare root)





# Medium Sized Water Lilies



- **Attraction** Magenta pink 4" long flowers, slightly fragrant. Large, evenly green lily pads. 4-5' spread, plant 6"-48" deep. (potted)



- **Clyde Ikins** 6" peachy yellow blossoms, which are strongly fragrant and freely flowering. 3-5' spread, plant in 6"-24" deep water. Also good for part shade, hardy to zone 3. (potted)



- **Gypsy** 4-6" wide flowers start out mottled with white, deepen to magenta with age. 4-6' spread, good for high light and heat areas. Hardy zone 4 (potted)



- **Marilacea albida** Fragrant 5" pure white flowers on olive green pads. Very floriferous, an antique variety from 1880. 3'-5' spread, hardy to zone 4, plant in 18-40" deep water. (potted)



- **Perry's Fire Opal** Deep electric pink, fully double flowers, 5"-7" wide. Leaves are deep purple, with a green heart. 4'-7' spread, plant 6"-24" deep. Zone 3-11 (bare root)

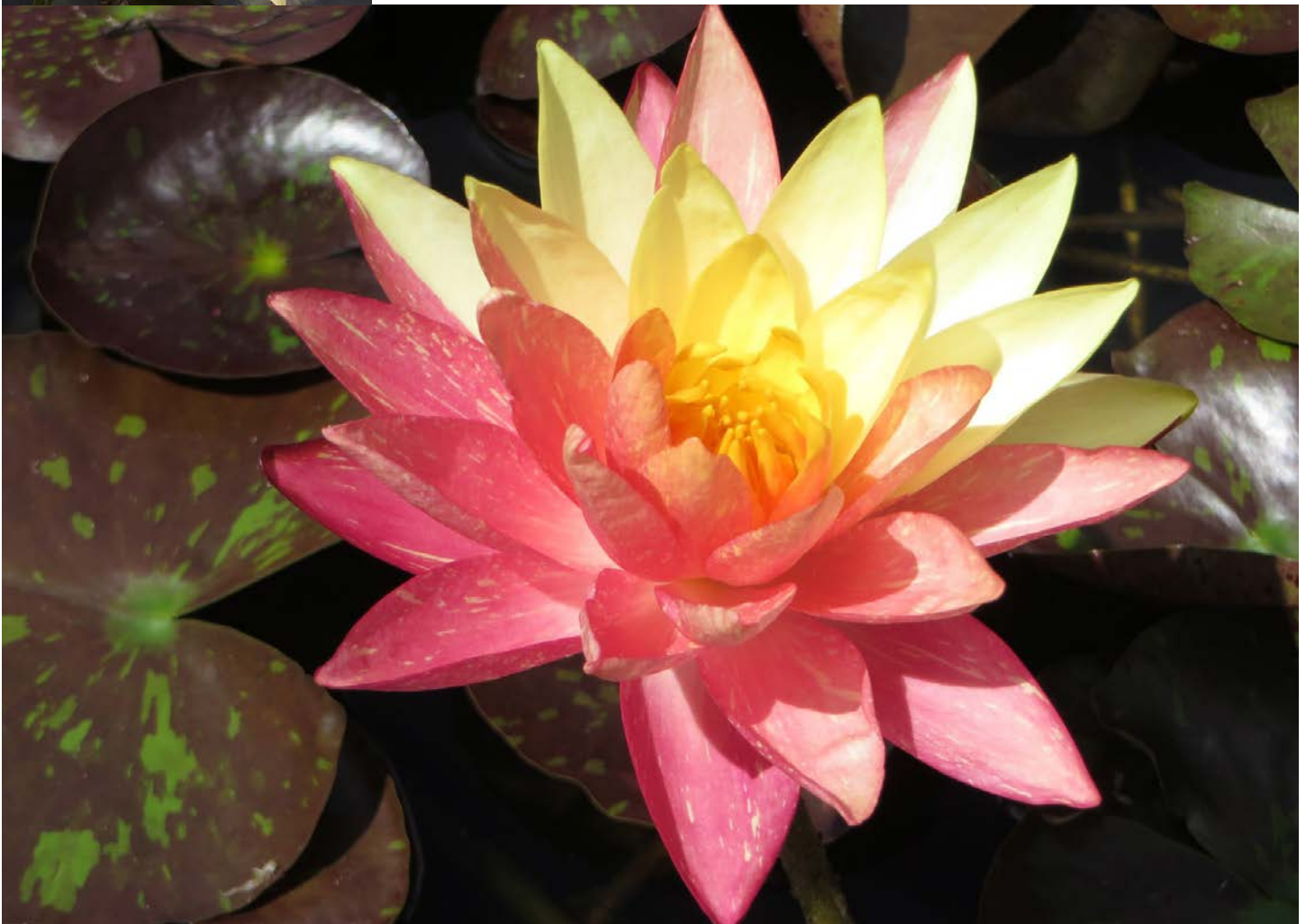
- **Rembrandt** Flowers are medium pink with lighter outer petals. Pads are maroon when young, ageing to deep green. Spread of 5'-6', plant 18-24" deep. Hardy to zone 3. (Potted)



# Medium Sized Water Lilies cont.



- **Sulphurea** Sulphur yellow, star shaped flowers. Vigorous bloomer with purple speckled leaves. Flowers are 5-7" across
- **Texas Dawn** Fragrant flowers are 6-8" wide. Leaves are green speckled with purple and may turn pink in the autumn. Good for part shade. 3'-5' spread, Hardy to zone 3, plant 6'
- **Wanvisa** 4-5" bright pink flowers speckled and blotched with yellows. Leaves are deep red with green flecks. 3'-6' spread, plant 18"-36" deep. Hardy to Zone 3. (potted)





# Large Water Lilies



- **Perry's Almost Black** Deep red petite flowers, similar to Black Princess. Smaller lily pads start yellow green, fade to medium green, with a large spread of up to 12'. Hardy to Zone 3, plant in 6"-36" of water.



- **Hollandia** Delicate, ballerina pink, cup-shaped flowers 5-7" long. Medium green lily pads with a spread to 12'. Hardy to zone 4, plant 18" to 36" deep.



- **Madame Wilfron Gonnere** Peony shaped medium pink blooms, with good fragrance. Spread of 6', evenly green pads. Good for partial shade. Can get large but is flexible for smaller to medium ponds too. Plant 6"-24" deep, Hardy to Zone 4.



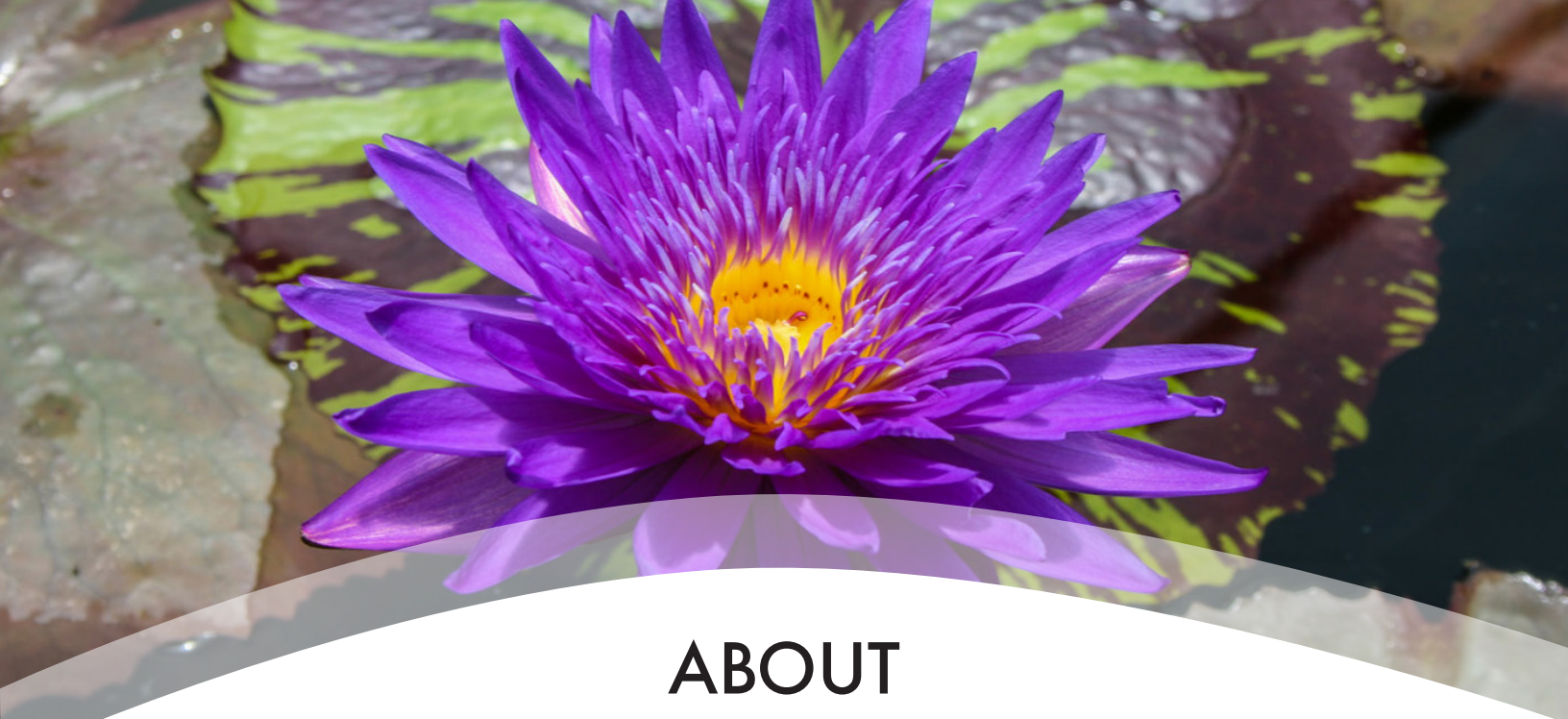
- **Moon Dance** larger sized, 6" slightly fragrant white flowers, blooms heavily. Flowers are held well above pads for easy viewing. Will take partial sun (5 hours or more), with a 7' spread. Hardy to zone 4, plant 18"-36".
- **Virginia** 7-8" starry white blooms that are mildly fragrant. Purple blotching is heavier on young leaves. Huge spread of up to 12' but variable depending on situation. Good for partial shade. Hardy to Zone 4, plant 18"-24" deep.



- **Purple Fantasy** One of the few hardy purple water lilies, with a bright yellow heart. 5' spread, with bright green pads. Hardy to zone 3, plant in 6"-30" deep water.







## ABOUT

# Tropical Water Lilies

Similar growing conditions to Hardy tropical lilies, but remember the following:

- They should not be placed in water under 55 degrees Fahrenheit- heated pots can help protect roots in Spring and Autumn
- They are hardy to zone 9- these are NOT cold hardy plants. The tubers must be overwintered indoors in order to survive year to year
- Like lots of sunshine- fewer shade tolerant offerings than our hardy water lilies
- Some are night blooming- buds begin to open at dusk
- Just like with hardy plants, koi like to eat/destroy tropical water lilies.
- Flowers are generally very intensely colored, with spiky interiors; and leaves are strikingly mottled.

# Tropical Water Lilies



- **Afterglow** Bright pink tipped flower petals with a yellow heart. Day blooming flowers are fragrant and abundant. 4'-6' spread for medium or large ponds. Plant 8"-30" deep.
- **Emily Grant Hutchings** Medium pink flowers with a white center, and red anthers. 6-8" Night Blooming flowers open at dusk and close at dawn. Spread of 6'-7', good for medium or large ponds.
- **Juno** 6"-10" Large white flowers with yellow anthers. Night Blooming, great for a moon garden. Leaves are serrated, spread of 5'-7'.
- **Lindsey Woods** Black sepals open to striated purple flowers with golden centers, very striking. Fragrant flowers are day blooming. Smaller lily with a spread of 3-4', suitable for smaller ponds. Plant 16"-24" deep.
- **Queen of Siam** Medium pink flowers with a yellow center sit on mottled green and maroon lily pads almost as pretty as the flowers. Free flowering and shade tolerant, spread of 3'-8' makes it flexible enough for most ponds. Plant 8"-30" deep.
- **Red Flare** Large, flat, fragrant, fuchsia colored flowers are night blooming. Leaves are serrated and red colored, with a 6'-8' spread. Plant 18-30" deep.





# Tropical Water Lilies cont.



- **Star of Zanzibar** Fragrant, periwinkle blue day-blooming flowers are 5-6" around, with a golden heart. Lily pads are serrated and speckled with maroon. 5'-6' spread, plant 18-24" deep.
- **Shirley Byrne** Heavily blooming, rose pink, cup shaped flowers with pink tipped anthers. Solid green, serrated pads spread. Day blooming, spread of 4'-6'.
- **Tanzanite** Bright royal purple flowers with a contrasting yellow center, quite striking. Very heavily double flowers, and floriferous. Day Blooming, pads are green striped with purple. Spread of 4'-6', plant 8"-30" deep.





## ABOUT

# Hardy Lotus

Lotus tubers will be sold bare root first, and any left from initial bareroot sales will be sold potted.

- Lotus tubers are hardy to zone 4, but should not be allowed to freeze solid
- Lotus are grown in water, but the leaves and flowers extend out of the pond, unlike floating lily pads
- Just like waterlilies, lotus need still or very slow-moving water to grow successfully.
- Lotus vary in size from tiny bowl lotus only 10" high, to the largest at over 4' tall. They will grow as wide as their growing area allows.
- Lotus will bloom most of the summer- generally late June through August in our climate
- Lotus roots are very aggressive and will take over the bottom of a pond if allowed. They should be contained in a bowl or solid pots, never planted in a netted pot, or directly in the pond.
- New lotus should be grown in water temperatures of 50 degrees or higher, and should have regular monthly applications of fertilizer, such as pond tabs to promote healthy growth and blooming



# Hardy Lotus



- **Beautiful Dancer** Miniature bowl lotus, 12" tall. Ivory yellow flowers with pink tipped petals. Very floriferous and starts blooming early.



- **Decorated Lantern** Medium size, 24-36" tall. Changeable flowers open pink and fade to white tipped with pink as they mature. Dependable bloomer.



- **Momo Botan** A very popular, easy to grow lotus of medium size- up to 30" tall. Very heavily double flowers are a cheerful, bright pink with a yellow heart. Individual flowers last for several days and stay open late.



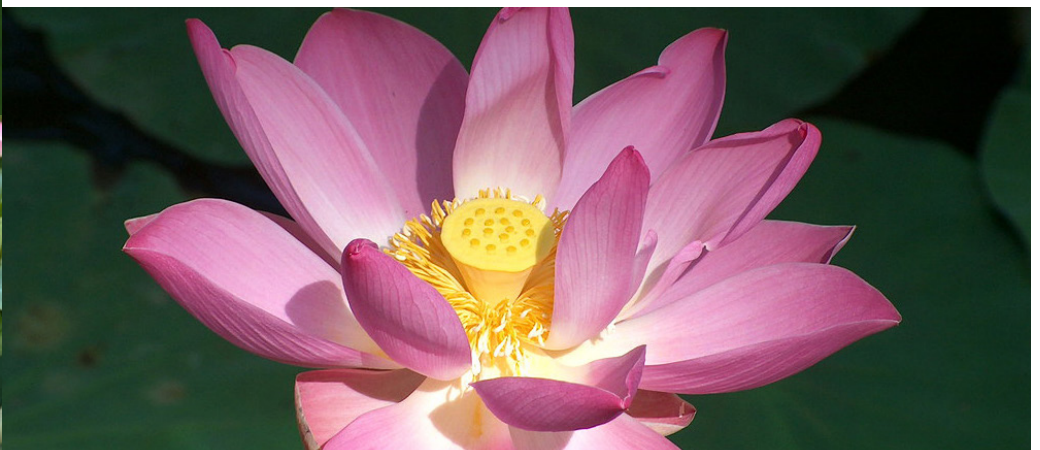
- **Perry's Giant Sunburst** A very large lotus 48" tall with huge flowers, up to 20" in diameter. Best for large ponds. Flowers are single, and sunshine yellow



- **Pink-A-Licious** Another very large lotus, growing up to 5' tall in a container, and possibly larger if planted directly. Flowers are 10-12" wide, bright hot pink with yellow centers. An attention grabber.



- **Pink Parfait** Small but not miniature, at 18-24" tall. Large sized flowers for the plant, with changeable pink flowers that lighten as they age.





## ABOUT

# Cold Water Floating Plants

Floating pond plants are often beautiful looking, delicate plants. The fact that they don't stay in one spot, but rather move freely on the water surface, adds to their attraction. Their movements are solely determined by the wind and flow of the water.

These aquatic plants can help to shadow your pond, particularly when there are no trees or other structures which provide shade. By reducing the amount of sunlight hitting the water, floating pond plants help to reduce algae, which need the UV for their growth. They also reduce algae by outcompeting them for the nutrients solved in the water. Smaller plants often serve as food for water birds or bigger fish, such as koi. Floating pond plants also provide cover for fish eggs, fry or smaller fish.

Most floating water plants have a high reproduction rate and can quickly get out of hand when introduced into new environments. When released into the wild outside their native range, they can often outcompete native aquatic plants and cause havoc with the natural ecological balance.

Please use only native or non-invasive species in your garden pond!



# Cold Water Floating Plants



- **Aquatic Mint (*Mentha aquatica*)** an aquatic member of the common garden herb. The leaves and flowers are edible, (but should be thoroughly washed!) and flowers are popular with bees. Like mints everywhere, this can be invasive, so site carefully. Zone 4/5-11, 12" high, Full sun to partial shade
- **Frogbit (*Limnobium Spongia*)** Heart shaped leaves, can be grown floating, or rooted as a marginal, giving it some flexibility in the pond. Tolerant of early spring cool water, but not hardy in MN. 2" tall, Zone 6-10, Full sun to part shade.
- **Parrots Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)** A very popular floater that can also be used as an oxygenator. Very soft, frilly leaves. Cannot be sold or brought into WI or Michigan. Not cold hardy in MN but does tolerate cool spring waters well. 10-12", Zone 6-11, full sun to partial shade.
- **Dwarf Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum papillosum*)** a smaller version of the popular parrots feather, with red stems. To 4" long, Zone 6-11, full sun to partial shade.







## ABOUT

# Tropical Floating Plants

Our Tropical Floating Plants are considered annuals. They have no way of producing a dormant state for winter months. Floating plants require the most maintenance through the summer months. Beginning water gardeners assume they are easy to grow and therefore don't often try the more manageable potted plants. When it is cold these floating pond plants rot or perish. When it is warm these fast growing plants do filter the water but often reproduce so quickly they can cover a pond depleting oxygen levels.

Please use only native or non-invasive species in your garden pond!





# Tropical Floating Plants



- **Mosaic Plant (*Ludwigia Sedioides*)** A beautiful, unusual floater which must be grown in warm waters of at least 70 degrees and cannot be grown in alkaline waters above pH8- so avoid concrete lined ponds. Lies flat on the water, and spreads to about 2'. Full Sun to part shade, Zone 7-11 (can be overwintered in a fish tank)



- **Sensitive Plant (*Neptunia aquatica*)** Very reminiscent of mimosa pudica, but aquatic. Tiny frilly leaves will close when touched, and plant has sunshine yellow flowers. Grows in long lines across the surface of the pond, instead of radially. Prefers warm water, Zone 9-11 Full sun to part shade



- **Water Hyacinth** Hands down the most popular floater for ponds, does well in warm water and full sun. Has beautiful purple flowers. Will take over the water surface if allowed but makes a fantastic nutrient sponge. Best grown in full sun, not shade, and pouts in cold water, or lots of current. Zone 9-11, highly invasive in warm climates.



- **Water Lettuce** Several variations of this popular floater exist, including variegated leaves, and different arrangements of the rosette. Looks like a floating head of cabbage. This floater does not flower but is fantastic at taking nutrients out of the water column. Does burn in full sun, so it is better suited to shady ponds. Pouts in cold water, Zone 7-11 part shade to shade.



- **Water Snowflake (*Nymphoides indica*)** Leaves are very reminiscent of tiny lily pads, with purple markings. Has small, frilly white flowers- quite charming, especially in small ponds. Prefers warm water, full sun to part shade, Zone 7-11

- **Yellow Water Snowflake (*Nymphoides geminata*)** Very similar to the white snowflake, but with yellow flowers. Leaves are mottled, perfect for small ponds and features. Full sun to part shade, Zone 7-11





## ABOUT **Oxygenators**

Oxygenators generally live under the surface of the water. These plants provide vital cover to fish and other aquatic wildlife. The small bubbles seen on the leaves of these plants during the day are oxygen bubbles. Oxygenators help take up nutrients from the water column, starving out algae. Generally, very easy to grow, but fish often like to eat them. Often seen used in fish tanks as well as ponds, some do NOT like hot water conditions. None of our oxygenators are MN hardy, but they can be overwintered in very well-lit fish tanks.





# Oxygenators



- **Purple Cabomba (*Cabomba pulcherrima*)** Very feathery, delicate leaves, with purple stems in good sun. Prefers soft, warm water. Grows fast when happy.
- **Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)** Our most popular oxygenator, can tolerate cooler water than Cabomba, with similar foliage. Great cover plant for fish.
- **Red Star Ludwigia (*Ludwigia glandulosa*)** Best for full sun, but gorgeous when it is happy. Broad red leaves give a much different look than feathery hornwort. Can also be grown emergent as a marginal plant.
- **Moneywort (*Bacopa monnieri*)** A lemony scented plant which is edible, moneywort is fairly easy to grow in the pond. Very petite rounded leaves, with tiny white flowers- grows well submerged or as a marginal. Small stature makes it a good plant for waterfall steps.
- **Rotala rotundifolia** a fun, red leaved plant. Leaves change shape depending on if they form under or above the water. This plant will often start under the water and emerge to grow slightly above the water. Another good choice for waterfall streams. Trim to encourage bushy growth.







## ABOUT

# Native Marginal Pond Plants

Marginal Plants are rooted in the lake bottom, but their leaves and stems extend out of the water. They grow in wetlands and along the margins and shore, where the water is typically 4 or 5 feet deep or less.

They're as important as oxygenating plants for healthy pond life. Native flowering marginals are good for attracting flying insects, while their foliage will give aquatic wildlife shelter as well as habitat for laying eggs.





# Native Marginals



- **Lizard Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)**
  - Hardiness: 4-11
  - Height: up to 36"
  - Fragrant, unique white spiked flowers
- **Arrow Arum (*Peltandra virginica*)**
  - Hardiness: 5-9
  - Height: up to 24"
  - Beneficial plant that stabilized soil and habitat for native fauna
- **Horsetail Rush (*Equisetum hyemale*)**
  - Hardiness: 4-11
  - Height: up to 36"
  - Similar to bamboo
- **Dwarf Horsetail Rush (*Equisetum scipoides*)**
  - Hardiness: 4-9
  - Height: up to 10"
  - Shorter version of Horsetail Rush
- **Sagittaria 'Crushed Ice' (*Sagittaria graminea*)**
  - Hardiness: 5-11
  - Height: up to 24"
  - Beautiful green and yellow foliage







## ABOUT

# Minnesota Hardy Marginals

These Hardy Marginals are incredibly beneficial in maintaining the health of your pond. Filtration plays an important role in naturally cleaning pond water. These plants are prolific in Minnesota's cooler temps and tends to pull back effectiveness slightly in the heat of the summer.





# MN Hardy Marginals



- Dwarf Cattail (*Typha minima*)
- Graceful Cattail (*Typha laxmannii*)
- Variegated Cattail (*Typha latifolia* variegata)
- Red Plantain (*Plantago major* 'Rubrifolia')
- Ribbon Grass "Strawberries and Cream" (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
- White Rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris* 'Albescens')
- Zebra Rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris* 'Zebrinus')
- Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)





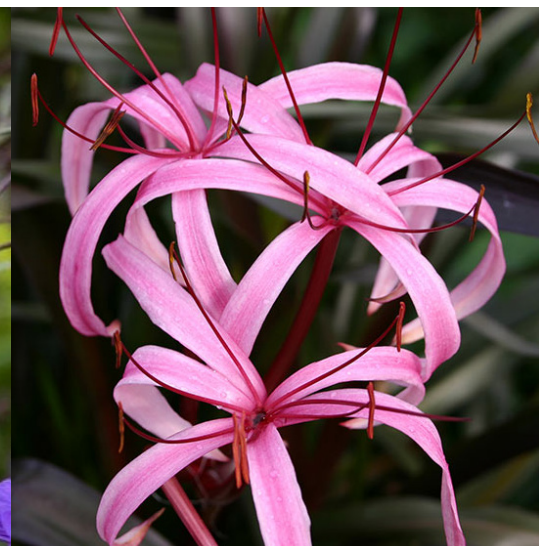


ABOUT

# Non-Hardy Marginals

It's important to incorporate a variety of marginal plants to achieve a natural look for your ecosystem pond. Marginal plants are found growing around the edges, or margins of your water garden. There is a large variety to choose from and they all offer different shapes, sizes, textures, and colors.

Looking after marginal plants in an ecosystem pond is quite easy. Get rid of any decayed, discolored, or excess plant material as necessary. Remember, marginals don't require fertilizers (unless they're in a pot) because they thrive from the nutrients in the pond.





# Non-Hardy Marginals



- **Variegated Clover (*Marsilea mutica*)** Lucky Charms measure roughly 2" across
- **Thalia Red Stem (*thalia geniculata*)** Native to North America
- **Blue Bell Compacta (*Ruellia brittoniana* 'Katie')** Can tolerate many different sun and soil conditions from sun to shade and wet soil to normal soil
- **Bog Lily (*Crinum* 'Menehune')** Beautiful wine red foliage and bright pink flowers
- **Leather Fern (*Acrostichum danaefolium*)** Excellent for shady areas
- **Umbrella Palm (*Cyperus alternifolius*)** Leaves form an "umbrella" shape. Quick grower.
- **Water Poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*)**
- **Water Hibiscus (*Hibiscus acetosella*)**
- **Zephyr Lily (*Zephyranthes candida*)**
- **Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)**
- **Spongy-Leaved Arrowhead (*Sagittaria montevidensis*)**
- **Double Flower Arrowhead (*Sagittaria japonica*)**
- **Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)**
- **Bloody Dock (*Rumex Sanguineus*)**



## ABOUT **Louisiana Iris**

Louisianan Iris are marginally hardy in Minnesota, but with proper winter care, make a beautiful addition to ponds. They grow 2-3' tall and 2' wide. The name "iris" is derived from the Greek word for rainbow, which is especially applicable with Louisiana iris plants. They come in a host of colors, primarily due to their ability to inbreed amongst the five separate species.

In water gardens or ponds, try growing Louisiana iris in containers. Ensure they have wide drainage holes and situate the pot in the water.





# Louisiana Iris



- 'Colorific'
- 'Dixie Deb'
- 'Full Eclipse'
- 'King Creole'
- 'Professor Claude'
- 'Red Velvet Elvis'

