Aquatic Plants: How to use Aquatic Plants in Your Pond and Garden

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Easy Steps to Aquatic Plant Care and Maintenance
Aquascaping Your Pond

- Understanding plants and your pond’s ecosystem
- Selecting the right plants
- Pond design
- Plant maintenance
- Winterizing
Important Role in the Ecosystem

- Waste
- Ammonia
- Broken Down by Bacteria (Nitrosomonas)
- Plants Absorb
- Nitrates (Fertilizer)
- Broken Down by Bacteria (Nitrobacter)
Plant Stocking Rate

- Over-crowding a pond can cause oxygen deficiency at night through photosynthesis
Plant Stocking Rate

- Finding a good combination will allow for a perfectly balanced pond, and great water quality
Plant Stocking Rate

• Most ponds do best with 40-60% surface coverage
Selecting the Right Types of Plants for Your Pond
Types of Aquatic Plants

• Water Lilies
• Lotus
• Marginals
• Floating Plants
• Submerged Plants
Water Lilies

• Provide shade to the pond in full sun
  • Helps keep the water cool
  • Deprives algae of sunlight needed for growth

• Divided into two basic groups
  • Hardy
  • Tropical

• Lily-like Plants
Hardy Water Lilies

• Perennial from zone 3 to 11
• Flowers open early morning and close early afternoon
• Available in red, pink, yellow, white, and changeable
• Reds and pinks are the most popular
Attraction
Splendida
Carla’s SonShine
Comanche
White
Tropical Water Lilies

• How To Identify a Tropical Water Lily

• Day Bloomers
  • Opens early morning and closes early afternoon
  • Red, Pink, White, Yellow, Blue, and Purple
  • Blue and Purple are the most popular

• Night Bloomers (a.k.a. Working Person’s Lily)
  • Opens late afternoon and closes early morning
  • Red, Pink, and White
Judge Hitchcock
St. Louis
Texas Shell Pink
Marion Strawn
Red Flare
Victoria Lily
Lily-like

• Great for container gardens or small ponds
• Use for additional water coverage
• Most are tropical

Water Hawthorne
Mosaic Plant
Water Poppy
Sensitive Plant
Lotus

- Hardy to zone 3
- Available in Red, Pink, White, and Yellow
- Available in a variety of sizes
  - 18” - 8’ in height
  - 3 - 36” leaves
- Best grown in pots, extremely invasive
The President
Momo Botan
Mrs. Perry Slocum
Shiroman
Marginals

- Hardy and Tropical Varieties
- Plant a mix of different seasonal flowering varieties
- Mix different types of foliage
Blue Flag
Iris
Corkscrew Rush
Horsetail
Pennywort
(don’t use it)
Pickerel Weed
Thalia (Hardy Water Cana)
Water Forget-Me-Not
Water Cress
Black Magic Taro
Imperial Taro
Umbrella Palm
African Sunset Canna
Floating Plants

• Very effective way to add additional filtration
  • Competes with algae for food
  • Provides shade, which helps prevent algae growth

• Works great to help conceal up-flow biological filters
Water Hyacinth
Water Lettuce
Azolla
Duckweed
Submerged Plants

• Great at absorbing nutrients from the water
• Provide food, shelter, and spawning medium for fish

Anacharis | Cabomba | Hornwort
Pond Design

• Making it natural
• Best view
• Playing with colors and textures
To Pot or Not to Pot
Creating Natural Marginal Plant Pockets
Planting Potted Lilies Into “Soil-less” Lily Pockets
Planting Potted Lotus or Tropical Lilies
11x16 Pond Plant Layout Guide

A well-balanced design for Aquascape Designs’ most popular size pond system will help balance the pond and naturalize it into the landscape.
Large Pond Plant Layout Guide

For a larger pond, the design changes a little as plants are grouped in masses because of the larger shelves. Balance is still very important, but easier to accomplish in larger ponds.
Pondless® Waterfall and 8x11 Pond Plant Layout Guide

A nice mixture of aquatic plants will help naturalize and filter the Pondless™ Waterfall system. Even in a pondless system, plants are important to help keep the water feature looking good.

For the smaller, 8’ x 11’ pond, this design will give you plants that look beautiful as well as balance the pond.
Playing With Colors & Textures

• Use taller marginals as backdrop plants
• Contrast with leaf textures to bring interest and a lush, inviting look
• Random colors will give a complete and unstructured appearance
• Stagger bloom periods so flowers can be enjoyed all season
Playing With Colors & Textures
Playing With Colors & Textures
Plant Maintenance

- Pruning
- Dividing
- Fertilizing
Pruning

• Remove dead and dying foliage
• “Dead-heading” or removing spent flowers will encourage more blooms
Dividing

- Yearly divisions will ensure healthy plants
- Dividing plants will avoid overcrowding
Fertilizing

• Prolific blooming plants need heavy fertilization during peak growing season.
Winterizing Your Plants

• Remove dead or dying foliage in the fall
• Tropicals can be brought indoors or treated as annuals
What is a Patio Pond?

• Easy Low Maintenance way to add aquatic plants if you don’t want a pond or water feature!

• Add Lighting or even a small “spitter” to add the sounds of water

• Many sizes, can be set on a deck, small patio, or even in your landscape as a decorative planter pot.
Lotus
What you need?

1. Container- Water Tight: Aquascape has container made for this with shelves, way to add pump/feature, and light-weight.
2. Asst. of Aquatic Plants- Marginals, Lily, Submersible, and Floating.
3. Small Fish (Optional)
4. Decorative Spitter/Pump (Optional)
5. Plant Fertilizer
Don’t want plants or fish, but want to add water?
Thank You for Attending