



CHOOSING & PLANTING WATER PLANTS

Marginal Plants

The majority of marginal plants grow in the shallow water at the edges of the water garden. They provide lush, upright foliage that softens the edge of the water garden. They provide a hiding place for fish and frogs.

Floating Plants

Floating plants take their nutrients directly from the water and simply float on the surface creating shade. They help purify the water by taking up waste nutrients which helps to reduce the growth of unwanted algae.

Water Lilies & Lotus

Water Lilies and Lotus have large ornamental leaves and flowers which dominate the central area of the water garden. Water Lilies are either perennial or annual and all Lotus are perennial.

Algae Control

The best method to control algae is to cover the surface of the pond by 60%. This is done by using plants that create shade such as Water Lilies, Floaters or plants that spread across the surface of the water. Floating plants such as Water Hyacinth compete for the nutrients that feed the algae. If you have enough floaters in the pond you will starve out the algae.

Barley Straw has been found to be effective in preventing the development of string algae. As the straw decomposes, it is converted to hydrogen peroxide, which in constant low levels inhibits algae growth. The best time to place Barley Straw in the pond is when a hole forms in the surface of the ice.

Another reason for algae bloom is due to the fact that most ponds have too many fish. Reducing the amount of fish in the pond reduces the amount of waste given off by the fish, which is the best source of food for algae. Also, reducing the amount of food that you feed your fish will cut down on the nutrients within the pond and therefore decrease the amount of algae.

Recommended Planting Rates

For optimum pond health, a certain balance of plant types is recommended. Remember that a water garden is a small ecosystem; one that must support both animal and plant life.

10–20 square foot pond

- 1 Lily
- 4-6 marginals
- 5-10 bunches of oxygenators
- 2 floaters

20–30 square foot pond

- 2 Lilies
- 6-10 marginals
- 10-15 bunches of oxygenators
- 2 floaters

30–45 square foot pond

- 2-3 Lilies
- 8-12 marginals
- 12-20 bunches of oxygenators
- 3-4 floaters

45–70 square foot pond

- 2-4 Lilies
- 10-18 marginals
- 15-30 bunches of oxygenators
- 3-5 floaters

For ponds larger than 70 square feet, increase the numbers of each plant type accordingly.

