

# Types of Water Plants

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### Hardy Water Lilies

Lily pads cover the water surface, provide shade for fish and decrease algae growth. Flowers appear at or above water surface in many gorgeous colors. Water lilies like still water so keep them away from waterfalls and fountains.

Dwarf varieties need 6"-18" of water over the crown of the plant and are suitable for tubs and small ponds. Regular varieties like 12"-24" of water over the crown. Most prefer at least six hours of sun a day to produce flowers.

Overwintering Procedure: If your pond is at least 24" deep trim off old foliage after a hard frost and put the plant in the deepest part of the pond. If the pond is less than 24" deep or if you are using an above-ground tub, remove old foliage after frost, put the lily in a plastic bag and place in a cool cellar (where it won't freeze) for the winter. Drape the top of the bag over the lily to keep it moist (no need to tie the bag shut).

Check periodically to be sure the plant is moist. Return it to the pond in April.

### Hardy Bog or Marginal Plants

These grow along the water's edge either in wet soil or in 1"-6" of water.

Some common varieties include:

- " Variegated Sweet Flag. White and green fragrant leaves. Sun or shade. Height 2 to 3 feet.
- " Marsh Marigold. Bright yellow flowers in spring. Sun or part sun. Height: 12 inches.
- " Chameleon Plant. White flowers in summer over striking green, white and bright pink leaves. Sun or part sun. Height: 8 to 10 inches.
- " Iris. Flower colors range from yellow, blue and purple to white. Sun to part sun. Height 2 to 4 feet.
- " Blue Rush. Slender bluish leaves. Sun. Height: 1 to 2 feet.
- " Variegated Water Celery. Beautiful white, pink and green foliage. White flower. Sun or part sun. Height: 12-15 inches.
- " Blue or White Pickerel Rush. White or blue flowers in summer. Sun or part sun. Height: 2 to 2.5 feet.
- " Hardy Water Canna (Thalia). Blue flowers in summer. Sun to part sun. Height: 2 to 3 feet.
- " Dwarf and Miniature Cattails. Small cattails develop in summer; leaves narrower than regular cattails. Sun to part sun. Height: 3 feet (dwarf), 12 to 18 inches (mini).

Winter care: Same as for hardy water lilies.



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## **Tropical Marginal Plants**

Summer care is same as for the hardies. In winter bring plants into the house before the first frost. Keep the plants in the appropriate light and keep soil wet at all times. (No need to submerge in water.)

Some common varieties include:

- "Black Magic Taro. Large blackish green leaves. Sun or part sun. Height: 2 to 4 feet.
- "Dwarf Papyrus. Attractive fine green leaves. The flower is a green umbel. Sun or part sun. Height: 12 to 18 inches.
- "Parrot Feather. Feathery leaves and stems trail over the water's surface. May survive a mild winter out in the pond. Sun or part sun. Height: 6 inches.
- "Umbrella Grass. Narrow green leaves with umbrella-shaped green flowerhead. Sun or part sun. Height: 4 feet.
- "Calla Lily. White flowers in summer. Sun or part sun. Height: 2 to 3 feet.

## **Floaters**

- "Water Hyacinths. Blue and purple flowers in summer. Leaves have large bladders to keep them afloat. Fish like to hide in the roots. Sun or part sun.
- "Water Lettuce. Lettuce-like foliage. Prefers moving water. Shade or part shade.

(Water Hyacinths and Water Lettuce do not keep over winter, even when brought inside. Discard. They make great compost!)

## **Oxygenators**

These plants grow beneath the water surface, produce lots of oxygen and use up excess nutrients that would otherwise feed algae.

Some common varieties include:

- "Anacharis
- "Vallisneria (Eel Grass)

Both might survive the winter in the deepest part of the pond



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