

HOW TO



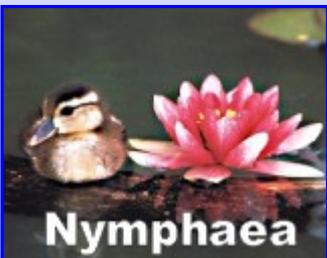
Start learning about POND PLANTS

Pond plants come in a huge variety of shapes, sizes and colours. They can be grouped into 6 categories: Lilies, Deep Water, Marginals, Oxygenators, Floating and Bog Plants, each occupying a different area of the pond.

WATER LILIES

The Water Lily is the most popular of the water plants. It has brilliant blooms and its leaves cover the water surface, providing shelter and shade.

They are available in a variety of sizes to suit any size of pond. Some grow very large so measure the size of your pond and purchase a lily that, when fully grown, will cover no more than half of the pond surface area.



Blooming is usually June to September and each flower usually lasts 4 days. When introducing a lily for the first time, position it so that the leaves are on the water surface. Use an empty basket to raise

the plant if necessary, dropping the height as the stems grow.

Your lily will die back in and fed yearly. Winter and regrow the following year. Feed once a year in April with a lily food block. Situate your plant in an area of the pond which has the least amount of disturbance, away from waterfalls, fountains and any other splashing.

MARGINALS

The roots of marginal plants need aquatic soil and the plants are best kept in pond baskets. This allows the plant to be lifted easily for pruning, treating for pests, diseases and feeding

Marginal plants have their roots just under the water, ideally on a marginal shelf or in the shallows of the pond, with their leaves and flowers held above the surface. Their role is mainly ornamental, softening the boundary between water and land -and providing interest during the growing season.

DEEP WATER

Deep water plants will grow in water more than 6" deep. One of the best is 'Water Hawthorn'. It is easy to grow, has evergreen leaves and fragrant flowers which appear for months.

Another favourite is 'Water Fringe' or 'Floating Heart' which has lily like leaves and buttercup flowers. It is fast growing but may eventually need to be cut back.

Deep water plants are useful where water lilies are absent or not yet established.

Their leaves provide shelter and shade and can be planted in partial shade, near fountains, disturbed surfaces and very deep water. All deep water plants need to be planted in aquatic compost, preferably in a pond basket and fed yearly.



Amongst the large variety of attractive marginals to choose from are Reeds, Rushes, Grasses, Iris, Lobelia and Water Mint.

Planting depth is usually 0-6" depending on the variety. Feed once a year in April with food blocks.