

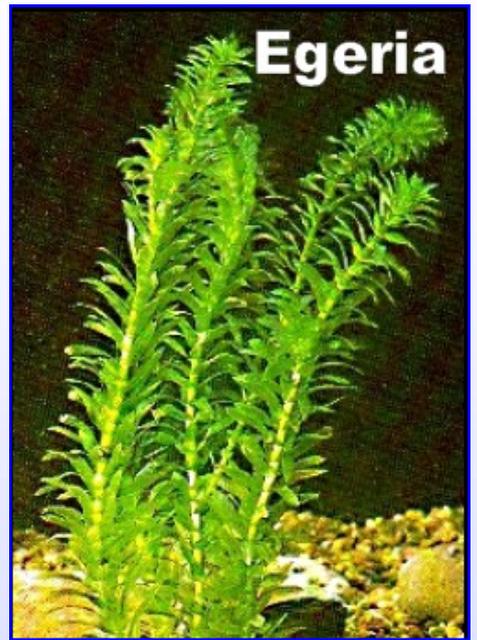
# A Short Guide to POND PLANTS *continued* . .

**OXYGENATORS** Oxygenators are extremely important for clear, healthy water, providing food, producing oxygen and creating a spawning area for fish and the irfry. The leaves absorb minerals and carbon dioxide in the day, which helps starve the algae. Usually sold in bunches and held together with a lead strip. Plants can be dropped into the pond or can be planted up in a container. Oxygenators are very vigorous but can be easily thinned out if they start to take over. As a guideline, one bunch per 3ft sq is recommended.



Milfoil

Most oxygenators do not 'overwinter' and need to be protected or replaced each year. Elodea, Egeria, Hornwort, Curled Pondweed and Milfoils are all readily available at North Wales Garden World during the pond season.



Egeria

## FLOATING PLANTS

Floating plants have buoyant leaves that rest on the water's surface and roots that hang freely in midwater, rather than being rooted in compost. Floating plants provide shade & protection, but do little to oxygenate the water. Most floating plants are not frost hardy and should be treated as annuals or be protected over winter.



Water Lettuce

Water lettuce is a fast spreading plant with velvety rosettes of leaves and feathery roots. It is an excellent choice if you require fast growing surface cover.

Water hyacinths are attractive plants, their leaves are dark and shiny with round, swollen stems. The late Summer flowers are orchid like and can be blue, pink or yellow in colour. However, a hyacinth requires a long, hot Summer to flower as they originate from a warmer climate. Frogbit is ideal for a small pond as growth is fairly slow. It resembles a mini lily with yellow and white flowers in Summer. Leaves die back in Autumn and remaining buds sink and rise again next Spring.

## BOG PLANTS

Bog plants are moisture loving plants which grow around the edges of ponds and water gardens. These plants require damp soil which is never allowed to dry out, but is not permanently waterlogged. If the area around your pond is constantly damp, you can grow bog plants without any preparation but if it isn't, then one can easily be created. Firstly, dig out the desired area, line with sand and lay

pond liner inside (with an overlap of 6"). Create drainage holes - one half inch hole is required every 3ft. Then add a 2" layer of gravel at the bottom for drainage and fill up with a free draining, moisture retentive compost, such as seed compost. Hide the liner overlap with stones/gravel and plant up with appropriate species. Water copiously and regularly during dry spells in Spring and Summer



Houttuynia