

## **WATER PLANT CARE AND SELECTION GUIDE**

### **HARDY WATERLILY** (*Nymphaea*)

Easy for beginner to grow. Needs full sun to bloom. Colors are white, yellow, pink, red and changeable from one color to another. Top of soil should be 8-12" below water surface. Round leaves float on surface. Flowers either float on surface or stand above water on stiff stalks. Plant goes dormant in fall, reappears in spring. Fertilize monthly with slow release fertilizer. Propagate by division. To prepare hardy lilies for winter, stop fertilizing after first light frost. After first heavy frost, prune away dead leaves and stems, place on bottom of pond if deep enough, or in a cool cellar. Keep slightly moist. Old leaves and spent flower heads should be removed as they appear. Zones 3 - 10. Some colors:

- Queen of Whites: Outstanding cup-shaped white flowers.
- Chromatello: Canary yellow 6" bloom, bronze marbling on leaves. Tolerates some shade.
- Rembrandt: Medium to large red, fast growing.
- Pink Sensation: Rich pink petals, lightening at tips. Very fragrant and stays open late. Vigorous and prolific.
- Sioux: Changeable, from chrome yellow to deep orange to copper. Excellent bloomer.
- Pink Opal: Bright pink flowers, fragrant.
- Charlene Strawn: Yellow, holds flowers above water.
- Sulphurea: Yellow, large flowers last into late afternoon, fragrant.
- Texas Dawn: Yellow, large flowers and long blooming period, fragrant.
- James Brydon: Red, strong bloomer, fragrant.
- Perry's Red: Large red flowers, fragrant.

## **SHALLOW WATER PLANTS FOR ALONG POND MARGINS**

### **WATER FOUR-LEAF CLOVER, CUT-LEAF CLOVER**

Emerald-green leaves, up to 3" across, patterned with brown and yellow spots. Grows in 3" or more of water. Floats on surface of water forming a carpet. Thin as necessary.

### **HORSETAIL** (*Equisetum*)

Hollow, slender, bamboo-like stalks are semi-translucent, will grow to 4'. Vigorous grower best controlled in container whether planted in or near the pool. Grows well in sunny or shady areas. Propagate by division. Will survive frost but is not winter hardy.

### **DWARF CATTAIL** (*Typha minima*)

Flat, sword-shaped leaves rise straight up from the water. Purple-brown flower heads are borne on stout, ramrod-stiff stalks that are 12-18" tall. Cattail is invasive, so plant in containers in 2-12" of water. Propagate by division or plant seeds in pots, put in shallow water in spring. Suitable for small ponds. Hardy, zones 3 - 10.

### **PICKERAL RUSH** (*Pontederia cordata*)

Gives a "wild pond" look to an informal pool. Roots grow below water, with 2' stalks bearing spearhead-shaped, shiny, olive-green leaves up to 6" wide and 10" long. Azure to violet-blue flower spikes last all summer. Grow in water up

to 12" deep, starting in shallow water and moving to deeper water gradually. Propagate by division. Very hardy, zones 3-9.

### **WATER IRIS** (*Iris* spp.)

Several species, with showy flowers of different colors blooming in early spring. Narrow sword-like leaves. Thrives in pool or poolside. Root area must be kept well drained in winter. Plant in water 2" deep. Propagate by division or seeds. Zones 4 - 9.

### **WATER BABY'S BREATH** (*Alisma plantago aquatica*)

Broad-leaved, shallow water plant. Numerous small white flowers on tall, multi-branched stems. Flower sprays resemble baby's breath.

### **PENNYWORT** (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*)

Round, slightly scalloped leaves balanced on top of a vertical stem 6-12" tall. Looks like a tiny lotus. Small white flowers. Fast growing.

### **GIANT ARROWHEAD** (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

Splendid shallow water plant reaches 2'-4', with arrowhead shaped leaves and sprays of small white flowers.

### **SPIKE RUSH**

Bright green, grass-like reed makes a good clumping accent around a pond. 1"- 10"

### **PARROT'S FEATHER** (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Lush, lime-green feathery leaves grow densely around stem and float on the water. Graceful favorite for a tub or raised pool, will grow in 1" to 4' of water.

### **YELLOW FRINGE** (*Nymphoides peltata*)

Like a miniature lily. Flowers are yellow, small, and with fringed petals. Also called Floating Heart. 2"-8".

## **FLOATING WATER PLANTS**

### **WATER HYACINTH** (*Eichornia crassipes*)

Attractive floating aquatic with air-inflated leaf stems. Blue and lilac flowers look like orchids. Fast growing, help to control algae by competing for light and nutrients. Provide shade and spawning medium for fish.

### **WATER LETTUCE** (*Pistia stratiotes*)

Free-floating 6" rosettes, resembles pale green heads of lettuce, with velvety coats. Roots are feathery and trailing, may anchor in wet soil if plant runs aground. Likes full sun or shade, and sprays from fountains. Propagate by separating offshoot from parent plant. Not hardy, treat as annual.

## **SUBMERGED WATER PLANTS**

### **ANACHARIS** (*Elodea canadensis*)

An oxygenating plant, stays below the surface of the water. Promotes clear, fresh water. Consumes carbon dioxide in the water and gives off oxygen for fish. Also provides shelter for fish. Submerge 12" or deeper, propagate by cuttings. Dark green leaves with lighter green stems need lots of sun. Prefers cooler water. Treat as annual. Zones 5 - 10.