



Aquatic Plants

From the glitter of a sunbeam reflecting from the water, the tinkle of a tiny fountain, the scent of a beautiful tropical waterlily, to the lazy lacy motion of a long finned koi, every sense is both stimulated and soothed by water in your garden. It invites you to sit by it and to reflect with it.

The creation of this tranquil little world within the garden is not difficult. It can be tiny, even in a container on the porch or patio. It can be huge, a natural bottomed wetland environment, teeming with wildlife. For most of us it is somewhere in between, and the planning and building of this special feature can be as much of a joy as the end result

Below are some tips to help you achieve the best results from your aquatic plants:

- Do not have splashing water from fountains onto the top of the leaves. This will damage the leaves and could cause the plant to die.
- If the water level is too deep for the decorative water plants, stand pots onto some bricks carefully place at the bottom of the pond.
- Fertilise all aquatic plants by removing the potted plant from the pond and pushing a stick into the potting mix. Pour a slow release fertilizer into the hole and cover over. Slowly lower the plant back into the pond.
- Some water plants lose their leaves and die down for a dormancy stage throughout winter. This is normal. Other foliage plants can improve the ponds appearance during this time.
- If you do not wish to remove spent leaves and flowers from aquatic plants, they will sink beneath the water and compost down. This is OK - it is a normal part of the plant / pond life cycle.
- A healthy pond has a weak tea colour. If you have a green pond, this is caused by too many nutrients. Add plants to help absorb the nutrients. You should also add plants to cover part of the water surface. This will help kill the algae as it cannot live without light.
- Oxygenating plants are a bit of a myth. They do provide some oxygen in daylight when they photosynthesise, but at night they use some of the oxygen as they respire. Their real benefit is that they are usually vigorous growers and help to absorb the excess nutrients in the water, hence compete against the algae and improve water clarity.
- Submerged aquatic plants are self adjusting to water depth. Most plants supplied to the nursery have been grown in shallow water in order to make it easier to transport. However, if the pond is deeper and all the leaves are below the water surface, either raise the pot, or leave as is and the plant will produce new leaves which will grow up to the water surface. The old leaves will die off, but this will not harm the plant.

