



All about
**Pond
Plants**

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Pond Plants

Introduction

The selection of plants used in the landscape of your garden pond brings out the beauty and color of the scenery. These plants fall into four main groups: floating plants, submerged oxygenating plants, plants that root in the water and have foliage and flowers above surface, and plants that have leaves submerged and their flowers standing above water. Each of these plants serves a specific function and when properly used, will help build the pond into a great ecosystem with a balance between plant and animal life.

General Description

Floating plants do not need soil and its roots hang suspended in the water while their blossoms are on the surface. These plants include the water lettuce, water hyacinth, water poppy, frog-bit, and duckweed.

The roots of the submerged plants are anchored in the dirt, but their leaves stay underwater. These plants include anachris, cabomba, and vallisneria.

Plants that root in the water and have leaves and flowers above the surface are called marginal and tropical bog plants. These plants include the arrowhead, cattails, floating-heart, iris, flowering rush, pickerel rush, horsetail rush, white rush, lizard's tail, yellow snowflake, sweet flag, thalia, arrow arum, water hawthorne water pennywort, creeping ludwigia, papyrus, star sedge, umbrella palm, and the water canna.

Choosing your Plants

Plants should be chosen carefully with regard to the surroundings. Plants that have different flowering seasons should be chosen in order to have diversity in the blooming patterns. The climate and location of the pond has a great impact in the choice of plants. Your budget will also impact this choice. Also, the population of the fish plays a role in the quantity of plants selected.



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Plant Suitability

Due to the fact that these plants will be located outdoors, plants should be selected based on its ability to adjust to diverse temperatures. During periods of high fish population, submerged oxygenating plants are most suitable because they absorb the carbonic acid gas given off by the fishes and other aquatic animals. When using these plants, remember that creatures (some useful and some harmful such as leeches, parasitic worms, and beetles) will inhabit in the vegetation. Some plants can become very massive and choke the pond. The only way to rid the pond of this mass is to remove the fish, snails and disinfect with permanganate of potash or a solution of copper sulphate. Make sure that the solution is not too strong because it may destroy the plants.

Number of Plants

Water lilies are suitable because they are highly decorative, provide oxygenating value, and are shade for the fish. Remembering that fish do not have eyelids, lilies will protect them from the rays of the sun. Without the lily, the water may become very warm and become a catalyst for ailments for the fish. Marginal plants provide bright leaves and flowers, their roots and stems provide shelter for baby fish, and insects that live within the leaves.

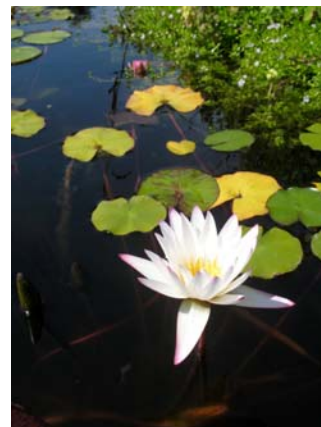
The number of plants for each pond may differ due to the amount of sun, depth, dimension, and temperature. For every square yard of surface area, the general rule to achieve in a balanced pond should include the following: two bunches of oxygenating grasses, one medium to large water lily, twelve water snails, two fish about 4 to 5 inches long and one bog plant or small water plant per every two square yards.

Location of Plants

The location of the plants is based on the amount of sunlight or shade that is provided. The aesthetic environment that the pond owner wants to create affects the location as well. Many owners prefer a pond in shaded areas. But in the fall months, extra maintenance is needed due to the abundance of fallen leaves in the pond which creates an imbalance in the ecosystem of the pond and may become toxic to the fish. If you prefer a pond with frequent blooms from the plants, you may want to locate your pond in a place that receives approximately six hours of sunlight per day.

Plant Care

Plants should be maintained regularly in order to prevent any type of disease or infection in the water. By fertilizing, pruning, thinning, transplanting and dividing the water plants, you will be able to maintain a healthy garden pond.



You'll need these basics for your pond plants. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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Plant Maintenance

In the spring, remove any visible debris from the water and surrounding edges of your pond. Check the vegetation for dead leaves, parasites or other problems. In order to improve plant health and aesthetics, perform the following during the growing season and up to autumn: trim all dying leaves and flowers at base of stem as needed in the summer; clip submerged plants to no less than 5-6" above soil line; in the autumn, prune floating leaf plants (water lilies, some bog plants) and submerged plants to 1-2" above the soil line; and bog plants to just above water line after the first killing frost. To prevent overcrowding, after one to years of planting look for overcrowding and poor blooming in the pond.

Plant Design

When selecting your plants, choose from a variety of floating pond plants such as lilies to provide shade and shelter for fish and aquatic animals. You will need to include pond plants that will provide oxygen. Underwater plants are great at producing oxygen but they use a lot of nutrients and keep the water clean. Without the plants in the pond, the water would be cloudy and smelly. Plants add to the foliage, beauty and the general health of the garden pond.

Plant Accessories

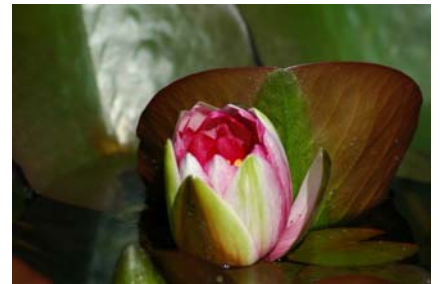
Aquatic plant food tablets will be needed to replenish the nutrients and maintain the beauty of the plants. Baskets may be needed when subdividing or thinning out the vegetation. Algae and sludge control will assist with controlling the growth of the algae and the color of the water. A skimmer may be needed to remove debris from fallen leaves or vegetation. Filters would be necessary to keep the water clean from debris. Nets would assist in keeping the fallen debris from the pond.



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