

# Marginals, Floating Plants and Oxygenating Plants

Compiled by Cyndie Thomas

A water garden can be comprised of a pond of lilies or a compliment of marginal plants, oxygenating plants, and floating plants, in addition to lilies.

Marginal plants, sometimes called shallow water plants or bog plants, can border your pond or be placed in the shallow area of your pond. Most marginal plants should be potted in a one-gallon (or larger) size pot. The wider the pot, the more dynamic the affect along the pond's edge.

Oxygenating plants should be potted and submerged in the bottom of the pond. These plants absorb carbon dioxide (wastes from animal life and decaying matter) and release oxygen into the water. They also serve as a great fish spawning area.

Floating plants generally are not potted and just float on the water's surface. These plants draw nutrients from the water, competing with algae. They also provide shade for fish.

## Marginal plants

"T" denotes Tropical plants; "H" is Hardy. "D" followed by the number is the depth the plant should be placed in the water.

**Acorus, Variegated** (*Acorus gramineus*) H  
Sweet flag. Marginal plant has tufts of green and white variegated leaves. Grows to 12". D-1-6"



Taro

**Aquatic Mint** (*Mentha aquatica*) H  
Lavender flower on green lush foliage. Grows to 18". D-1-6"

**Butterfly Plant** (*Asclepias*) T  
Long, green opposing leaves. Produces

clustered flowers in red, yellow, white, and pink. Grows to 24". D-0-4"

**Bog Bean** (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) H  
Clustered three-leaf foliage with pinkish flower stocks in spring. Grows to 8". D-1-6"

**Blue Bell** (*Ruellia squarrosa*) T  
Short, green linear foliage. Produces many small, blue bell flowers Grows to 12". D-1-6"

**Bog Lily** (*Crinum americanum*) T  
Long, dark green stalks with large, white flowers, bloom in Spring and Summer. Grows to 24". D-1-6"

**Cannas Longwood** hybrids T  
True aquatic flowering canna hybrids. Large elongated leaves with abundant blooms in red, yellow, orange, or pink in Spring through late Summer. Grows to 4'. D-1-6"

**Canna** (Canna hybrid) T  
Produces orange flowers from Spring to late Summer. Grows to 4'. D-1-6"

**Canna** (*Americanallis variegata*) T  
An orange flower with large green and yellow variegated leaves. Grows to 4'. D-1-6"

**Canna** (*Canna flaccida*) T  
Produces yellow flowers which bloom from Spring to late Summer. Grows to 3'. D-1-6"

**Cattail** (*Typha latifolia*) H  
Tall, grassy leaves and produces brown catkins. Grows to 6'. D-6-8"

**Cattail** (*Typha minima*) H  
A dwarf version of cattail. Grows to 12-18". D-1-6"

**Cattail, Graceful** (*Typha laxmannii*) H  
Long, slender, grass-like leaves. Grows to 4'. D-2-8"

**Clover** (*Marsilea mutica*) H  
Variegated leaves spread out across the water surface, topped with peridot green leaves divided into four parts, like four-leaf clover. Needs to be potted. Grows to 8". D-3-12" Other varieties: **dwarf, four leaf, split leaf, and two leaf.**

**Cotton Grass** (*Ruellia squarrosa*) H  
Short, green linear foliage. small, white tufts resembling cotton. Grows to 8". D-1-6"

**Dwarf Papyrus** (*Cyperus haspans*) T  
Grows in a clump; foliage has round brush-like balls on the end of each stalk. Grows to 2-3'. D-1-3"

**Florida Crypt** (*Physostegia leptophylla*) T  
Abundant stalks with lavender flowers all Summer. D-1-3"

**Golden Club** (*Orontium aquaticum*) H  
Large blue-green leaves grow low to water surface, yellow spike flowers. D-1-6"

**Gymnocoronis** (*gymnocoronis spilanthoides*) T

Short, green linear foliage. Produces many small, blue bell flowers. Grows to 12". D-1-6"  
**Hawthorn, Water** (*Aponogeton Distachyos*) H  
Spring and Fall bloomer. Fragrant white flowers are held above water. Oval, elongated, green, leathery leaves float on the surface. D-3-8"

**Hibiscus, Water** (*Hibiscus*) T  
Large and small flowering species in red, white and pinks. 3Q-48". D-1-6"

**Houttuynia** (*Houttuynia cordata*) H  
Multi-branched, heart-shaped foliage. Variegated, with multi-colored leaves of white, green, red and maroon. Grows to 8". D-1-6"

**Iris-Blue** (*Iris versicolor*) H  
Produces violet-blue flowers which bloom in early Spring. Grows to 24". D-1-6"

**Iris-Yellow** (*Iris pseudacorus*) H  
This Spring bloomer has bright yellow blossoms and sword-like leaves. Grows to 3'. D-1-6"

**Iris, Louisiana** (*Iris*) H  
Graceful, narrow foliage with flowers in reds, purples, maroons, violets, pinks, and blues. Blooms in Spring. Grows to 3'. D-1-3"

**Lizard's Tail** (*Saururus cernuus*) H  
Triangular foliage with unique narrow, white spike blooms that resemble a lizard's tail. Grows to 2'. D-1-6"

**Lobelia** (Blue - *Lobelia siphilitica*, Red - *L. cardinalis*) H  
Blue and red flowering spikes on green and reddish-green foliage. Grows to 2-3'. D-1-6"

**Marsh Marigold** (*Caltha palustris*) H  
Waxy, green clumping leaves with yellow flowers blooming in early Spring. Grows to 12". D-1-6"

**Parrot's Feather** (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) H  
Green feathery foliage which trails over the water's surface. D-3-12"

**Pickerel, Blue** (*Pontederia cordata*) H  
This plant continually produces violet-blue flowering spikes from early Spring to late Fall. Grows to 3'. D-1-12"

**Reed, Variegated Giant** (*Arundo donax variegata*) H

Clustered canes with green and white leaves up to 12" long. Grows to 24-30". D-1-6"

**Rush, Corkscrew** (*Juncus effusus spiralis*) H  
Slender, twisted, coiled stems. Grows to 24". D-1-6"

**Rush, Flowering** (*Butomus umbellatus*) H  
Triangular foliage with pink spike flowers atop green stalks. Grows to 24-30". D-1-6"

**Rush, White** (*Scirpus albescens*) H  
Needle-like stalks, white with pale green strips. Grows to 24-30". D-1-6"

**Sagittaria - Arrowhead** (*sagittaria latifolia*) H  
Clusters of white blooms adorn this plant with arrowhead-shaped foliage. Blooms early Summer through Fall. Grows to 2'. D-1-6"

**Sagittaria - Narrow** (*Sagittaria lancifolia*) T  
This plant has long stalks, produces large, wide leaves and clusters of white flowers. Grows to 3-4'. D-1-6"

**Spiderwort** (*tradescantia ohiensis*) H  
Green, linear leaves with an abundance of blue blooms make up this plant that grows well in shallow water or damp soil. Grows to 12". D-1-3"

**Star Grass** (*Dichromena colorata*) T  
Long, narrow, grassy foliage. Star-shaped white flowers on long stems. Grows to 18". D-1-6"

**Taro - Green** (*Colocasia esculenta*) T  
A member of the elephant ear family, this lush green plant has big leafy foliage. Grows to 3'. D-1-12"

**Umbrella Palm** (*Cyperus alternifolios*) T  
Grows in clumps with crowns of green, grass-like leaves at the tips. Grows to 6'. D-1-6"

**Water Poppy** (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*) T  
Small water lily-like pads which float on the water's surface. Yellow blooms rise 2" above the surface during warmer months. D-3-9"

## Floating Plants

**Azolla** (*Azolla caroliniana*) T  
Green, fern-like moss floater, turns reddish in the Fall.

**Water Hyacinth** (*Eichhornia*) T  
Floating water hyacinths have glossy waxed leaves set atop spongy leaf stalks. Flowers are on a single spike, usually blue to purple in color.

**Water Lettuce** (*Pistia stratiotes*) T  
Commonly known as "shell flower", this floating plant has pale green, shell-shaped leaves.

**Ludwigia** (*Ludwigia sedioides*) T  
Floating stems of willowy foliage, topped with yellow flowers all Summer. Needs to be potted. D-1-3"

**Salvinia** (*Salvinia rotundifolia*) T  
Clusters of bright green, hairy leaves float on the surface.



Floating Heart

## Oxygenating Plants

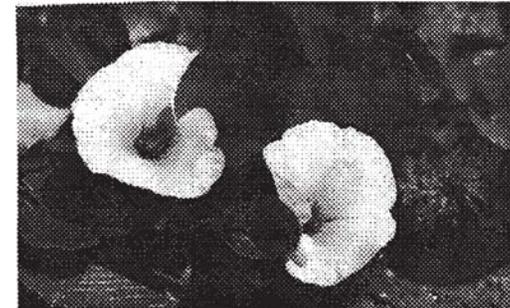
**Anacharis** (*Egeria densa*) H  
Anacharis has narrow, dark green, curled leaflets attached to long, branching stems.

**Cabomba** (*Cabomba pulcheri*) H  
Foliage consists of dark green bristles carried on long thin stems. Produces small white flowers with yellow centers.

**Myriophyllum** (spp.) H  
Hair-like foliage traps debris. Good for fish spawning.



Umbrella Palm



Water Poppy

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