



Marginal Plants

Floating & Oxygenating

*For more information about the
Colorado Water Garden Society
or other aspects of pond keeping along the front-range go to:*

<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>

or send an e-mail to:

info@colowatergardensociety.org

Written by Cyndie Thomas, originally published 2005
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A water garden can be comprised of just water lilies or it can contain a compliment of marginal, oxygenating, and floating plants, in addition to water lilies.

Marginal plants, sometimes called shallow water plants or bog plants, can border your pond or be placed in the shallow areas 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 are generally not potted and 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 Sweet Flag (*Acorus gramineus*) H. Marginal plant has tufts of green and white variegated leaves. Grows to 12". D 1" – 6"

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

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

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

Bluebell (*Ruellia squarrosa*) T. Short, green linear foliage. Produces many small, blue bellflowers. Grows to 12". D 1" – 6"

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

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 that bloom from Spring to late Summer. Grows to 3'. D 1" – 6"

Canna 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"

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

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

Cattail, Dwarf (*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"

Chameleon Plant (*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"

Clover, Water (*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"

Cotton Grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) 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"

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

Hawthorn, Water (*Aponogeton distachyos*) H. Spring and Autumn bloomer. Fragrant white flowers are held above water. Oval, elongated, green, leathery leaves float on the surface. D 3" – 8"

Iris, Blue (*Iris versicolor*) H. Produces violet-blue flowers that bloom in early Spring. Grows to 24". 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"

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

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"

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

Obedient Plant (*Physostegia leptophylla*) T. Abundant stalks with lavender flowers all Summer. D 1" – 3"

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

Pickereel, Blue (*Pontederia cordata*) H. This plant continually produces violet-blue flowering spikes from early Spring to late Autumn. 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 albens*) H. Needle-like stalks, white with pale green strips. Grows to 24" – 30". 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"

Senegal Tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*) T. Short, green linear foliage. Produces many small, blue bellflowers. Grows to 12". 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 alternifolius*) 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 that 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 Autumn.

Mosaic Plant (*Ludwigia sedoides*) 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.

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) 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.

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.

Eurasian Milfoil/Myriophyllum (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) H. Hair-like foliage traps debris. Good for fish spawning.