

Colorado Water Garden Society
c/o Newsletter Editor
1023 S. Kittredge Way
Aurora, Colorado 80017

First Class Mail



Coming in 2005!!

- **March** - Lotus/Hardy Waterlily Orders and Pre-Sales
- **March 13**, 2-4 pm, Morrison Center - Growing Your Lotus
- **April 1-3** - Denver Flower, Plant & Landscaping Show & Sale at Convention Center - **FREE** tickets coming in April Newsletter! Watch for it!!
- **April 23-24** - Metro Area Plant Society Weekend at Hudson Gardens
- **May 15**, 2-4 pm, Morrison Center, program TBA
- **Mid-June** - Tropical Lily/Marginal Plant Exchange and Sale (Sale pre-orders in May)
- **July 31** - Annual CWGS Pond Tour
- **Mid-August** - CWGS Water Garden Spectacular at DBG
- **September 11**, 2-4 pm, Morrison Center, program TBA
- **December 3** - Holiday Party



The Water Garden

Volume 22 Number 1

March 2005

Lotus sale kicks off new CWGS gardening year

蓮 Growing Great Lotus

CWGS begins its new year of activities with a special presentation on growing Lotus at its March 13 meeting at Denver Botanic Gardens' Morrison Center, 2-4 p.m. CWGS members Lowell Coon, Ken Lange, and Werner and Nancy Neupert will lead a panel discussion filled with tips for amateurs and experts alike and personal experiences growing lotus.

Lotus are probably one of the most misunderstood and underused garden plants by the western world. They look tropical and exotic, but are perfectly hardy. Lotus are not nor were ever native to Egypt, or the Nile river area (The 'blue lotus' of the Nile is the waterlily, *Nymphaea caerulea*, not a lotus and the 'white lotus of Egypt' is just another species of waterlily).

Lotus are native to Asia and North America and have been cultivated by the Chinese for at least 4,000 years and untold generations of Native Americans have appreciated their value. (Lotus seeds remain viable for thousands of years.)

Lotus tubers, new shoots, and seeds are all edible. In many Asian cultures lotus flowers are symbols of feminine beauty and purity!

Interested yet? Here's some basic information on this amazing plant.

- Lotus are very easy to grow, even for the first time water gardener.

- Lotus can be very invasive; their rhizomes often spread as much as 20 feet or more in a season. **Never** bare root them into a pond unless all you want is one giant lotus patch!

- Always remove spent blooms and yellowing foliage on your lotus plant throughout its growing season. Flowers should last about 3 to 4 days each, and leaves may sporadically be shed during its growth.

- Lotus need a good size pot, at least 16" wide for dwarf varieties, 20" wide for regular sized ones. The bigger the pot, the bigger the blooms on a lotus.

- Lotus are usually not very adept at escaping their pot so long as a sufficient rim (at least 4") is left from the soil line to the top of its growing pot. Allow large varieties of lotus around 7 to 10 inches of soil, smaller varieties only need 5 to 6 inches of soil in their pot.

Official Journal of the Colorado Water Garden Society

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See Lotus Order Form, Page 5

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<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>



Colorado Water Garden Society

Welcome to CWGS!!

Renewing Members

Jim Wibby, Traverse City, MI

New Members

David & Cindy Becklund, Littleton, CO

Woody & Dortha Davis, Littleton, CO
Joe & Kathie Habas, Lakewood, CO
Scott & Jennifer Martin, Aurora, CO

TREASURER'S REPORT

BANK BALANCE

(JANUARY, 2005)

\$ 13,464.11



The Water Garden is the official journal of the Colorado Water Garden Society (CWGS) ©1983-2005

Express Membership Application

Membership Fees: \$15.00 Individual; \$20.00 Family

Join or Renew Today!

Make checks payable to Colorado Water Garden Society;
DO NOT send cash; Check or Money Order only, please. Thank you.

Return this form with your payment to:

CWGS Membership
100 Glencoe St.
Denver, CO 80220

(Please Print)

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

E-Mail _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Pond Experience (Beginner) _____ (Some Skill) _____ (Pro) _____

Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I have checked below:

Flower & Plant Show (April) _____ Plant Societies, Hudson Gardens (April) _____

Plant Exchange/Sale (June) _____ Water Garden Spectacular (August) _____

Pond Tour (July) _____ Holiday Party (Dec.) _____ DBG Volunteer _____

Growing Great Lotus

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especially golden orfe, are very fond of fallen aphids).

• Lotus are best over wintered in the bottom of a garden pond, or somewhere where they will not be frozen solid. This means about 2 to 3 feet down in your pond. If the lotus tuber freezes it will die!

• Lotus need at least 6 hours of sun or more, some cultivars may tolerate a little bit less. Lotus develop the fastest in the spring in a warm area.

• Lotus can be started from tubers in the early spring; this can be a bit tricky for someone who is unfamiliar with their ways. Fully-grown lotus are always available at our garden center during the spring summer and fall. We recommend purchasing a grown plant, they are very durable and will happily grow for you and return with bigger and better blooms next year!

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Colorado Water Garden Society
<http://www.colowatergardensociety.org>



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* Summer Hours: Mon-Sat 8 am-6 pm Sunday Noon-5 pm

Getting in the Habit (Second) to have your best pond ever!

Jim Arneill, Member-at-Large

If you are familiar with Steven Covey's 7 Habits, you may recall that Habit 2 is "Begin with the End in Mind", and now is a great time to start visualizing how great your pond is going to look this summer! Since all things are created twice, first mentally and second physically, planning the various steps to your successful pond is very important.

First of all, how much time will there be to prepare before bringing up your hardy plants from the bottom of the pond or adding new ones? In our area, we generally look at the time period from mid-April to mid-May for this task, although using water temperature as a guide for pond care is the most dependable method. When water temperatures reach approximately 40 degrees*, this is a good time to bring up your plants. While this temperature may still seem cold, your plants will benefit from the additional light and slightly warmer water near the surface. Also, being hardy plants, they live up to their name and can rebound from some adversity.

Just as many people plan out their vegetable/flower gardens on paper, this is another step that is very worthwhile for your water feature. Sketching the outline of your pond and marking down where you would like to place your existing plants can be very helpful. This also helps you keep in mind what plants you have and may stimulate your imagination into what new plants you might like to add – perhaps a new lotus, tropical lily, canna, variegated marginal, or new type of floater. You might want to access online some of the major water plant distributors for ideas, and also to help beat the winter doldrums. (Check out the various colorful lilies at ewaterlily.com!)

Something that you might realize from your planning is possibly removing some existing plants to have enough room, especially because each year your plants keep growing and many need dividing. The good news is that you can trade some of your divided plants at this year's CWGS swap event or find a good home for them through the CWGS website, or with your other water gardening friends. Also, they make great compost. When dividing lilies, you will be increasing both the size of their leaves and the frequency of the blooms since they will not be competing for the same nutrients.

Think about other ways to enhance the beauty of your pond. This might include adding new features like a waterfall or fountain, or perhaps some lighting. What about the area surrounding your pond? You may want to make changes in some of your shrubs, perennials, or annuals. Many people enjoy grasses, ferns, hostas, and Japanese maples. Sculptures and others accents around the pond also can add interest and beauty as we have seen on many sites on the annual CWGS Pond Tours. There is also something to be said about simplicity, and for some ponds maybe less is more.

Beginning with the end in mind is a useful habit that has both a practical aspect to it and, perhaps most importantly, reminds us why we love our water gardens!

*Note: When adding new plants to your pond, warmer temperatures are needed with 60 degree water temperature recommended for most hardy plants, and 70 degrees for tropicals.

Updating CWGS newsletter and brochure archive on web site is an ongoing process

2004
 March
 April
 May
 June-July
 August
 September
 November

2000
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 June
 August
 September
 December

2003
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 June-July
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1999
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2002
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 May-June
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1998
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 December

2001
 March
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 August
 September

Educational Brochures

Colorado Water Garden History
 Pond Design
 Caring for a Pond
 Pond Problems
 Green Water
 Pesticides and Ponds
 Drought and Ponds
 Container Water Gardens
 Water Plants - General
 Aquatic Plant Propagation
 Colorado Hardy Plants
 Marginal Plants
 Oxygenating Plants
 Poisonous Plants
 Hardy Lilies
 Tropical Lilies
 Growing Lotus
 Carnivorous Plants
 Fish
 Scavengers

At this writing, more brochures are being prepared, and newsletters will be scanned and added to the archives as time permits. Any members who have complete sets of the newsletter and notice any issues that are missing are invited to submit them for scanning.

The newsletters will not be damaged, and CWGS will handle all costs associated with returning them to you. You will also receive credit for your submissions.

Pond Design

Building a Floating Island with Plants

Why a floating island or boulder? It provides shade for the water and fish beneath it. You will also find that the fish hide or swim under it, if frightened. You'll enjoy how much more natural it makes the pond look.

Building an island into an ornamental pond can be quite a project, and lead to high turbidity, or loss of water. But a floating island made to look realistic is isolated within the pond liner and its materials are stable or isolated from the water.

Buy a can or two or three of insulating foam at the building supply store. The package will advise how much volume it will produce. Remember; about 1/3 of the island will be submerged. Read the product's instructions and precautions. Follow them at all times.

Wear old clothes, shoes, gloves and protective glasses and keep *kibitzers* (onlookers) at a distance. Work outside to avoid the fumes.

Lay out a plastic protective sheet on the ground. Mark off on the plastic sheet with a crayon the ideal size and shape for your island.

Have an empty plant pot, etc. ready to make your depression in the foam while it expands. Leave it in the foam if you have a choice.

Apply the foam starting at the center of your design. The material will adhere to itself to a point so it does not have to be done all at once, but it's best if it is. Shape while it is still rising.

There is a fair amount of heat generated from the foam for some hours and it keeps growing during this time. Don't walk away before you are satisfied.

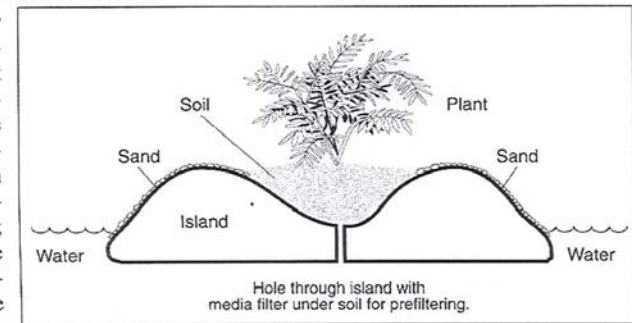
Before it dries, apply sand and sand dust, gravel or moss to the outer surface. It will eventually stick and decoratively cover the island. Be creative to make it look like the work of mother nature. Allow it to cure for at least four days. Place it in a pan of water for a few days before floating it out on the pond. I would even test to see if there were any toxic by-products by

putting a fish in contact with the pan water.

This technique works well for any size, shape or purpose island. It may be enhanced with plumbed water to act as a fountain or waterfall.

There are three areas of caution:

1. If the island is not anchored, it could float over to make contact with the liner and cause a leak. Round the island's edges.
2. It floats but not quite the way you imagined. This can usually be fixed by removing foam or adding weight.
3. The water that collects (if it does) in the island could cause it to overturn. This may be resolved with a hole made through the foam and a filter media used as a prefilter for the plants soil.



Features

Useful Water Gardening Math

Gallons in a Pond	Length (L) x Width (W) x Depth (D) x 7.5 [Example: 10' x 20' x 1.5' x 7.5 = 2,250 gal.]
Water Pump Size	Turn water one-half to one time each hour [Example: 500 gal. pond = 500 gal./hr. pump]
Pond Liner Material	Length = Length (L) of pond + (Depth x 2) + 2 ft. Width = Width (W) of pond + (Depth x 2) + 2 ft.
Surface Coverage	Less than 1,000 gallons - 50% - 70% coverage More than 1,000 gallons - 30% - 50% coverage
When to Feed Fish	Water temp consistently 50 deg. F or higher



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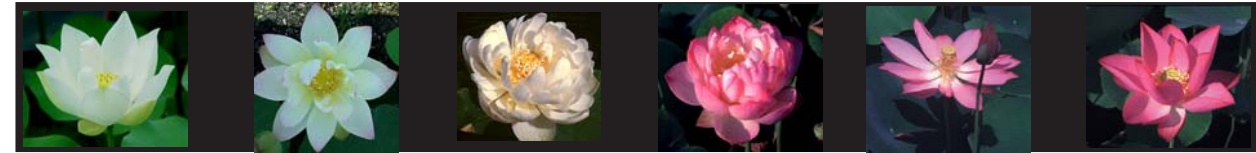
Shirts are made of 100% pre-shrunk cotton

Bag dimensions are 18" x 15"

Save shipping by buying at the March 13th meeting!

2005 Lotus Sale

NELUMBO



'Baby Doll'	'Green Maiden'	'Small Green Tower'	'Pink Crane'	'Red Scarf''	'Rosy Clouds'
Bloom Color: White	Bloom Color: Changeable	Bloom Color: White	Bloom Color: Rose-red	Bloom Color: Rose-red	Bloom Color: Rose-red
Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Pink to white/yellow	Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun
Height: 2-4'	Exposure: Full Sun	Height: 2-3'	Height: 2-3'	Height: 2-3'	Height: 2-3'
Pot size: 2	Height: 2-3'	Pot size: 2	Pot size: 2	Pot size: 2	Pot size: 2
Characteristics: A dwarf variety that produces lots of white single flowers.	Characteristics: Nearly double flowers.	Characteristics: A dwarf variety that produces lots of white double flowers.	Characteristics: A dwarf variety that produces lots of rose-red, double blossoms	Characteristics: A dwarf variety that produces single blossoms	Characteristics: A dwarf variety that produces lots of single flowers.

Lotus Order Form

Complete and mail before March 15th!

Send to: Lotus Sale, 1023 S. Kittredge Way, Aurora, CO 80017

Name _____

Address _____

Street

City

Zip Code

Telephone _____

Total Lotus Ordered _____

** Will Will not accept substitution

Total Pots Ordered _____

Pre-payment - total enclosed \$ _____

Full payment may be made, if desired.

Your order will be available for pick-up on Saturday, April 2nd 9 am - 3 pm
at Bill Powell's, 1210 Clayton St., Denver

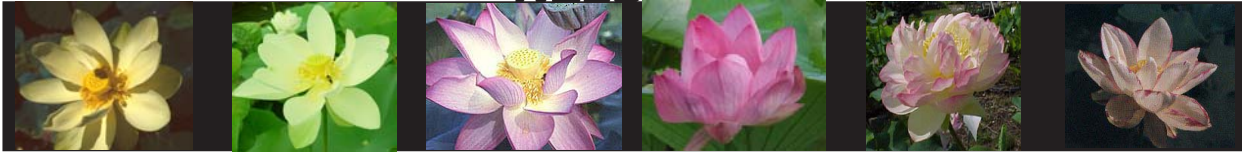
Questions on pick-up contact Bill @ 303-355-8098. wbpow@comcast.net

Hurry - Order Deadline is March 15. Mark your calendar to pick up your order on April 2nd!

Your order will be available for pick-up on Saturday, April 2nd 9 am - 3 pm at Bill Powell's,
1210 Clayton St., Denver

Questions on pick-up? Contact Bill @ 303-355-8098 or wbpow@comcast.net

NELUMBO



Lutea'	Perry's Giant Sunburst'	First Lady'	Maggie Belle'	Mrs. Perry Slocum'	Empress 'Alba Striata'
Bloom Color: Yellow	Bloom Color: Yellow	Bloom Color: Fushia-lavender	Bloom Color: Mauve Pink	Bloom Color: Changeable	Bloom Color: White with irregular dk. pink edges.
Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun	Exposure: Full Sun
Height: 4-6'	Height: 4-6'	Height: 4-6'	Height: 4-6'	Height: 3-5'	Height: 3-5'
Pot size: 1	Pot size: 1	Pot size: 1	Pot size: 1	Pot size: 1	Pot size: 1
Characteristics: North American native variety producing single flowers.	Characteristics: A medium - large variety that produces lots of yellow single flowers.	Characteristics: More elongated flower petals resemble Hindu lotus.	Characteristics: Petals curl inward on second day.	Characteristics: Double flowers.	Characteristics: Double flowers.

Most photos courtesy Maryland Aquatic Nurseries

Cut and mail order form with pre-payment in check or money order. Retain upper portion for your records.

ORDER FORM

Please note the quantity for each lotus you wish to order. Your cost is only \$25 each, with pre-payment of \$12.50 each to be included with order.

Lotus

Quantity

- Lutea'
- Perry's Giant Sunburst'
- First Lady'
- Maggie Belle'
- Mrs. Perry Slocum'
- Empress 'Alba Striata'

Quantity

- Baby Doll'
- Green Maiden'
- Small Green Tower'
- Pink Crane'
- Red Scarf''
- Rosy Clouds'

Total quantity ordered _____ (multiply x\$12.50) = Total lotus prepay amount \$ _____

Lotus Pots- Heavy-duty molded pots

Quantity

- Size 1 - 23" x 10" @ \$24 each** Total quantity ordered _____ (multiply x\$12)= prepay amount \$ _____
- Size 2 - 16" x 7" @ \$12 each** Total quantity ordered _____ (multiply x\$6)= prepay amount \$ _____

← **Complete your order form on the reverse side**

Features

Growing Great Lotus

continued from Front Page

- Lotus begin blooming in central Illinois about late June to early July and continue to mid-September
- Lotus plants may not bloom the first year, this is normal for them. They almost always bloom the second year. Blooming can be dependent on how much hot weather we have. The hotter it is at night, 70-85°, for at least two months, the larger and more flowers you'll enjoy. Because of their liking to warm weather, lotus can be a bit slow to emerge in the spring. Depending on the waterlily you choose, it may be up and flowering before the lotus pokes its first leaves through the soil. Don't worry. As warmer weather approaches your lotus will be back and blooming with a vengeance!
- Lotus are well suited to containers, as well as traditional garden pools. Lotus grow the best at a depth of about 1" to 8" below the water surface whether in your pond or in a container.
- Lotus blooms can be as large as your face, intensely perfumed, with leaves in excess of 3' on some cultivars. The flowers are wonderful to use in vases, and the dried seed pods, resembling a fossilized shower head, are wonderful in arrangements.
- Lotus come in several sizes, from dwarf 1' specimens, to giant varieties that reach 6' or more.
- These plants come in a myriad of colors from red to yellow to white, and in shades of peach, violet and cream.
- Excessive fertilizer and hard water with a high pH can occasionally cause chlorosis in lotus plants. Feed lotus plants once per month during the regular growing season with a pelletized fertilizer. Rainwater relieves chlorosis, as does frequent water changes. (Chlorosis, or severe yellowing of the leaves, is most common with lotus grown in containers.)
- Pests seldom attack lotus. Aphid infestations are the most common problem, these are easily controlled with a sharp stream of water (Fish,

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MarketPlace

Sell anything you want in this space for only \$15 per issue (or \$90 per year), pre-paid. Enclose copy and payment, and send to:

MarketPlace
1023 S. Kittredge Way
Aurora, CO 80017

WANTED

As you begin to do your spring clean-up, remember the CWGS Sale/Swap in June. We can use any plants and fish you have decided to dispose of. All plants should be properly labeled. For more information, contact Cyndie Thomas, 303-755-1885.



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