

## PLANTS for SHADE

These recommendations are for shady ponds with at least three hours of direct sunlight each day. While some of these plants may grow with even less sunlight, they may not flower.

## FLOATING PLANTS

These plants float freely on the water surface and reduce algae by competing for nutrients, shading the water to cool it and lowering the light penetration. Most floaters are tropical and those should be removed from the pond and composted prior to the onset of winter.

*Azolla* Miniature Water Fern  
*Hydrocharis morus-ranae* Frogbit  
*Lemna minor* Duckweed  
*Pistia stratioides* Water Lettuce\*

## SUBMERGED AQUATIC PLANTS (OXYGENATORS)

This group of plants grows beneath the surface of the water where most or all of their foliage remains. The term “oxygenators” is used because they release oxygen into the water during the day. The primary function of these plants is to remove excess nutrients from the pond, thereby reducing the growth of algae. They also provide spawning areas and protective cover for fish. Most of these plants are grassy in form and are sold in tied bunches.

*Ceratophyllum demersum* Hornwort  
*Marsilea mutica* Water Clover  
*Myriophyllum aquaticum* Parrot's Feather\*  
*Vallisneria spiralis* Tape Grass



## DEEP WATER AQUATICS

These plants root on the bottom of the pond and send floating leaves up to the surface. Everyone's favorite pond plant, the Waterlily, is in this group.

*Hydrocleys comersoni* Water Poppy\*  
*Marsilea mutica* Water Clover  
*Nymphaea sp. & hybrids*  
Hardy Water Lilies (selected varieties)  
**Red:** Attraction, Chas. de Meurville, Gloriosa, James Brydon, Lucida  
**Pink:** Fabiola, Masaniello, Rose Laydekeri  
**White:** Gladstone, Hal Miller, Hermine  
**Yellow:** Charlene Strawn, Chromatella, Helvola, Joey Tomocik, Texas Dawn  
**Changeable:** Chrysantha, Commanche, Graziella  
*Nymphaea sp. & hybrids*  
Tropical Water Lilies (selected varieties)\*  
*Nymphoides crenata* Yellow-fringed Snowflake

## SHALLOW WATER BOG PLANTS

These plants grow in shallow water or saturated soil around the perimeter of ponds or along the banks of streams. They frame the water feature, soften the transition between land and water, and provide an attractive backdrop to small ponds.

*Acorus sp.* Sweet Flag  
*Calla palustris* Bog Arum  
*Caltha palustris sp.* Marsh Marigold  
*Colocasia sp.* Taro\*  
*Cyperus sp.* Papyrus\*  
*Echinodorus sp.* Radican Sword  
*Equisetum sp.* Horsetail Rush  
*Houttuynia sp.* Houttuynia  
*Iris fulva* Red Iris  
*Iris louisiana* Louisiana Iris  
*Iris versicolor* Versicolor Blue Iris  
*Juncus sp.* Rush  
*Lobelia sp.* Lobelia  
*Marsilea quadrifolia* Upright Water Clover  
*Menyanthes trifoliata* Bog Bean  
*Nasturtium officinale* Water Cress  
*Orontium aquaticum* Golden Club  
*Peltandra virginica* Spoonflower  
*Sagittaria sp.* Arrowhead  
*Saururus sp.* Lizard's Tail  
*Scirpus albescens* Variegated Bullrush  
*Scirpus zebrinus* Zebra Rush  
*Thalia sp.* Hardy Water Canna  
*Typha latifolia variegata* Variegated Cattail

\*Tropical or semi-tropical plants



## INDOOR WATER PLANTS

Some houseplants can be used for indoor water features. These are a few that will thrive with or without soil. They require some sunlight, but are adaptable to grow light culture as well.

*Aglaonema* Chinese Evergreens

*Dieffenbachia* Dumbcane

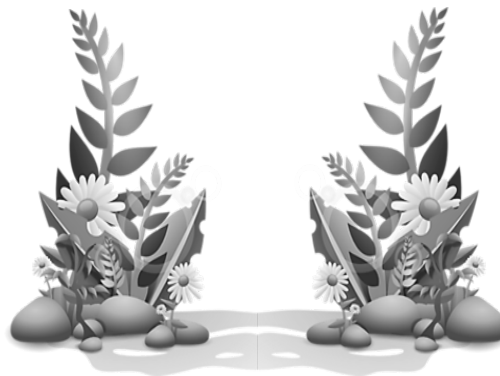
*Rhoeo d*, *Rhoeo s*. Oyster Plant

*Philodendron*

*Epipremnum aureum* Pothos

*Tradescantia pallida* Wandering Jew

*Sagittaria* Arrowhead



A varied selection of plants has impact not only on the beauty of a pond but also on the water quality. There are four basic types of pond plants. For an attractive, well-balanced pond, we recommend using a mixture of all four types.

Inside you will find a description of the different categories of plants and the ways in which each group will assist you in maintaining a healthy pond environment. We have also included a listing of houseplants that can be used for indoor water features.

# Plants for Shady Ponds

Options for Lower Light Water Gardens



Information courtesy of Hughes Water Gardens.

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