

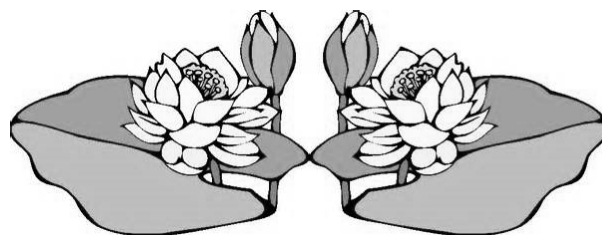
PLANTING

For potting media, you can use aquatic potting soil or heavy garden soil (like moles bring to the surface when burrowing). You can pot in no-hole pots or European-style mesh baskets. Both types are specially designed for water gardening. When using very fine soil in the mesh baskets you may need to line the basket with cheesecloth or newspaper first. Do not use amended garden soil or bagged potting mixes as they will float. Fill the pot three-quarters full of dampened potting media. Place the cut edge of the tuber against the wall of the container. Tilt the root at a 45 degree angle so that the growing tip is above the anticipated soil level and near the center of the pot. Carefully add more potting media around the tuber to secure it in place, taking care not to bury the growing tip. Place time-release aquatic fertilizer pellets into the potting media near to, but not touching the tuber. If you are using garden soil, you can add a shallow layer of pea gravel or decorative rock on the surface to keep the soil in place. If you have large Koi, river rocks will help protect the tuber from being disturbed. Again, do not bury the growing tip! Once you have potted your water lily, place it in an area of the pond that receives full sunlight. Carefully tilt the pot and slowly lower it into the pond. This allows the air bubbles within the pot to escape without dislodging the tuber. Start young plants near the water surface, allowing only 6-10 inches of water over the crown.

Lower them gradually as leaf stems lengthen. The beginning of flowering will depend on the amount of sunlight and warmth received. In successive seasons blooms will become larger and more plentiful.

FERTILIZING

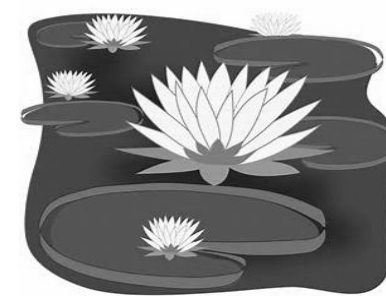
Waterlilies are exceptionally heavy feeders. Fertilize monthly with aquatic fertilizer tablets during the spring and summer months. Or use the new Aquatic-Tab Spikes once in the spring to gradually release nutrients for the full season. Yellow leaves, infrequent blooms or slow growth usually indicate inadequate fertilization.



PROPAGATION & DIVISION OF TUBERS

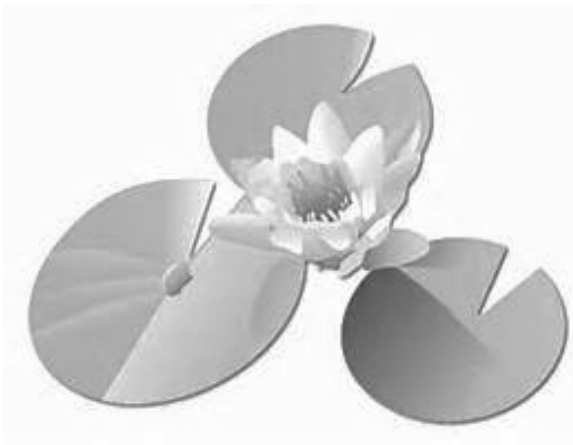
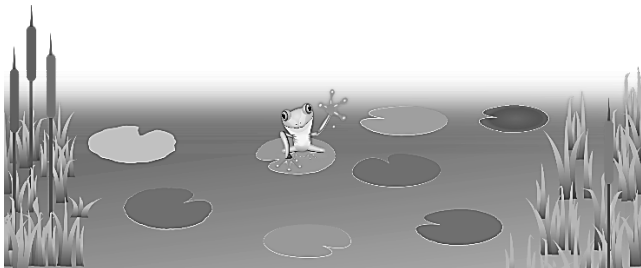
Water lilies can be expensive to buy. If you have a mature specimen that is starting to outgrow its pot, you may wish to propagate new plants from the old rootstock. Spring is the best time to divide waterlilies, as this gives the new plants plenty of time to establish themselves. Carefully remove the lily from the pot. Wash away the potting material from the tuber so you can see it

clearly. Some lilies produce small protruding bulbs or “eyes” with active growing tips along the body of the tuber. If your plant has developed eyes, these can be pulled or cut off and placed in small, no-hole pots or trays to grow and develop. They will need adequate light and warmth, so a greenhouse is the best place to grow the eyes until they are large enough to transplant as tubers. Otherwise you can leave them attached to the tuber to mature naturally and divide the main tuber as follows. Large lily tubers with multiple growing tips can be divided into sections. Each section must have both a strong growing tip and slender, dark feeding roots. Wear gloves when handling lily roots, as some species can stain your hands. Using a sharp knife, cut the tuber into sections. Remove the long white anchor roots from the new divisions, making a clean cut close to the tuber. Leave the smaller feeding roots intact. Trim away all large, open leaves in the same manner. If left on they will make the newly planted tuber too buoyant. Leave attached young foliage which has not yet unfurled. Follow this procedure on each new section. Now you are ready to pot the divided tubers.



TRANSPLANTING WATERLILY TUBERS

Mature waterlilies like to be somewhat crowded in their pots. However, if your lily has grown out over the side of its container and has roots dangling in the water, it is time to move it up one pot size. Use wide, shallow water plant containers without holes or European-style mesh baskets. Waterlilies can be transplanted any time they are actively growing. To do so carefully remove the plant from the pot. The less you disturb the root-mass, the more quickly your waterlily will reestablish in the new container. Trim away any damaged or dead leaves. Use a knife to cut away any soft or rotted portions of the tuber. Sections of the tuber with no active growth can also be trimmed off. Place the plant in a new container. If the new pot is deeper, add potting material under the lily to raise it to its original planting level. Continue filling in around the plant taking care not to bury the growing tip.



The primary benefit derived from floating-leaved plants is the surface shade they provide. 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. You can keep waterlilies in pots or build planting beds right into the bottom of your pond. Waterlilies grow in water up to about 3 feet in depth. In the Pacific Northwest, with our cool nights which keep water temperatures low, we feel that most waterlilies are happiest at depths no more than 18 inches to 2 feet. At these depths the sunlight penetration is better and the water is warmer. There are also miniatures which can grow in as little as 8" of water but must be moved to deeper parts of the pond for winter protection. Any hardy waterlilies will die if ice is allowed to touch the tops of their tubers.

Information courtesy of Hughes Water Gardens.

Growing Water Lilies

Instructions on Planting, Care,
Feeding, and Dividing



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