

Fact Sheet 3

PLANT VARIETIES

Oxygenating Plants

- Absorb nutrients and mineral salts from the pond, helping to reduce green water and blanket weed.
- Not suitable as the sole means of supplying adequate levels of oxygen for fish. These plants only produce oxygen when there are good levels of sunshine and during daylight hours. On hot, humid, dull days and overnight, a fountain pump is required.
- Plants can be placed in the pond 24 hours after the pond is filled for the first time.
- When buying bunches, it is important to plant them into shallow containers. As they are only cuttings, soil or small gravel will allow them to root, to encourage growth.
- Once planted, completely submerge the plants in shallow water where the sunlight stays the longest.
- Once established, drop into deeper water. They must still receive plenty of sunshine. Be aware of waterlilies in particular, blocking the sunlight.
- Lift the baskets to trim the plant occasionally, to keep them under control. "Little and often" is the key.
- Some varieties, already established in baskets, are available. These can be dropped to the labelled depth immediately.
- The Ceratophyllum Demersum (common name, Hornwort) is a naturally free-floating plant. It does not need planting and can literally be dropped into the water.

DEEP MARGINAL PLANTS

These are marginal plants that prefer deeper water.

FLOATING PLANTS

These attractive and unusual plants give instant surface cover. They feed directly on the minerals and nutrients found in the water through their root systems. Fish will often spawn on the roots of the Water Hyacinth.

MARGINAL AND MOISTURE LOVING PLANTS

Marginal plants provide colour and interest. They should be planted in baskets and placed on your pond shelves. The plants will give shade, help the water quality and encourage wildlife. We sell marginals potted up ready to go directly into the pond, plus a wide range of those you can pot on at home, along with any pots, liner, soil and gravel you would need.

Moisture loving plants offer a further range of interesting foliage and flowers. These plants are ideal for pondside planting, where the ground is damp but not waterlogged. Enrich the soil with organic matter and plant directly into the ground. Each Marginal or Moisture Loving plant we sell has an individual label giving you planting information.

WATERLILIES

Waterlilies combine both ornamental and practical value. They have brilliant blooms and their leaves cover the water surface to provide welcome shade and shelter for the fish, and they also help prevent excessive algal growth. At Solesbridge Mill Watergardens, we specialise in hardy waterlilies, all of which are container grown, needing no special winter care. They are perennial – renewing growth of leaves and flowers each Spring from the submerged rhizome.

Waterlilies, given plenty of sunshine, good soil and the correct depth of water, will reward the gardener with a show of flowers from early Summer through to the Autumn. Waterlilies do not do well in flowing or splashing water.

Waterlilies are available all year round, ideally purchased from April through to October, giving you the opportunity to choose from a large range and view leaf and flower types. We also sell everything you need if you wish to pot on your waterlily.

Solesbridge Mill Watergardens

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