



# Cultivating Aquatic Plants

## BASIC REQUIREMENTS

**SUN:** The more sun the better. Many aquatics will grow and bloom with only 3 hours of direct sun a day, but 5 or more hours is usually better.

**QUIET WATER:** Avoid water motion and splashing close to water lilies. Vertical plants will tolerate more water motion than plants with floating leaves.

**WATER DEPTH:** 2 to 24 inches from container top to water surface.

**SOIL:** Aquatic plants prefer a heavy garden soil containing some clay. **Do not use commercial potting mixes** - they just float away! Avoid soils which have been treated with insecticides or herbicides.

**CONTAINERS:** Pots, pails and plastic pans all work well. Size and shape depend on the number of plants you are clumping together and the effect you wish to create. Untreated wooden boxes may also be used. Containers should have drainage holes.

## POTTING AQUATIC PLANTS

**ASSEMBLE:** Containers, soil fertilizer (one tablet for each 4 quarts of soil), pea gravel.

**PROCEDURE:** Fill container about half full with soil. Put in fertilizer tablet(s). Plant aquatic plant. Add more soil to almost fill the container. Press soil firmly around roots. Immerse pot in bucket or water until all air has bubbled out of the soil. Remove pot from water and allow to drain. Cover soil with  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch of pea gravel. Place in pond at correct depth.

## MAINTENANCE

Fertilize if needed during the growing season. Prune off old leaves and flowers - don't let them accumulate in the bottom of the pond. Divide plants in the spring, if necessary (divide water lilies in the summer). If roots might freeze, remove plants from pond into a cellar (not necessary unless you have a very shallow pond). Keep cool and moist until weather warms.

