

# Water Gardening 101

## **MARGINAL PLANTS**

The majority of marginal plants grow in the shallow water at the edges of the water garden. They provide lush, upright foliage that softens the edge of the water garden. These plants also provide a hiding place for fish and frogs.

## **FLOATING PLANTS**

Floating plants take their nutrients directly from the water and simply float on the surface creating shade. Floating plants help purify the water by taking up waste nutrients which helps to reduce the growth of unwanted algae.

## **WATER LILIES AND LOTUS**

Water Lilies and Lotus have large ornamental leaves and flowers which dominate the central area of the water garden. Water Lilies are either perennial or annual and all Lotus are perennial.

## **ALGAE CONTROL**

The best method to control algae is to cover the surface of the pond by 60%. This is done by using plants that create shade such as Water Lilies, Floaters or plants that spread across the surface of the water. Floating plants such as Water Hyacinth compete for the nutrients that feed the algae. If you have enough floaters in the pond you will starve out the algae.

Barley Straw has been found to be effective in preventing the development of string algae. As the straw decomposes, it is converted to hydrogen peroxide, which in constant low levels inhibits algae growth. The best time to place Barley Straw in the pond is when a hole forms in the surface of the ice.

Another reason for algae bloom is due to the fact that most ponds have too many fish. Reducing the amount of fish in the pond reduces the amount of waste given off by the fish, which is the best source of food for algae. Also reducing the amount of food that you feed your fish will cut down on the nutrients within the pond and therefore decrease the amount of algae.

## RECOMMENDED PLANTING RATES FOR PONDS

For optimum pond health, a certain balance of plant types is recommended. Remember that a water garden is a small ecosystem; one that must support both animal and plant life.

### 10 TO 20 SQUARE FOOT POND

1 Lily  
4-6 marginals  
5-10 bunches of oxygenators  
2 floaters

### 20 TO 30 SQUARE FOOT POND

2 Lilies  
6-10 marginals  
10-15 bunches of oxygenators  
2 floaters

### 30 TO 45 SQUARE FOOT POND

2-3 Lilies  
8-12 marginals  
12-20 bunches of oxygenators  
3-4 floaters

### 45 TO 70 SQUARE FOOT POND

2-4 Lilies  
10-18 marginals  
15-30 bunches of oxygenators  
3-5 floaters

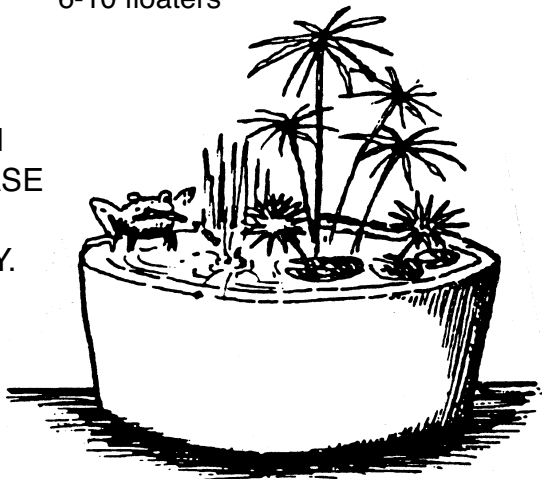
### 70 TO 120 SQUARE FOOT POND

3-5 Lilies  
10-20 marginals  
20-40 bunches of oxygenators  
4-6 floaters

### 120 TO 160 SQUARE FOOT POND

4-6 Lilies  
15-25 marginals  
40-60 bunches of oxygenators  
6-10 floaters

FOR PONDS LARGER THAN  
160 SQUARE FEET, INCREASE  
THE NUMBERS OF EACH  
PLANT TYPE ACCORDINGLY.



  
**bordine's**

This care sheet and more information available  
on our website at [www.bordines.com](http://www.bordines.com)