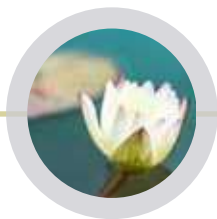


Waterlilies Made Easy

A GUIDE TO GROWING BEAUTY IN YOUR BACKYARD POND







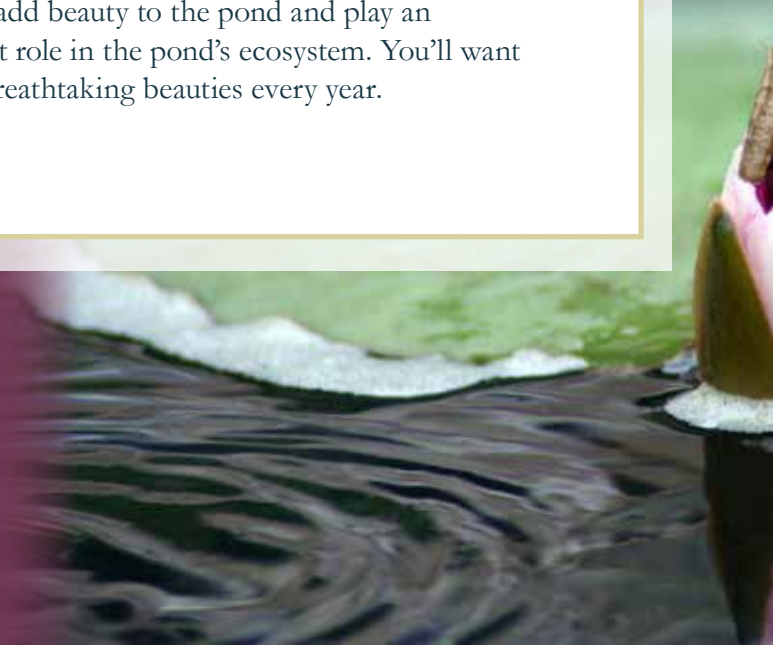
THE TIMELESS CHARM OF WATERLILIES

From the serene ponds of Monet's Giverny to backyard water gardens around the world, waterlilies have captured the imagination of artists and gardeners alike for centuries. With their vivid blooms and sculptural leaves, they offer not just beauty but a calming presence that transforms any water feature into a living painting.



WHY WATERLILIES?

Waterlilies add beauty to the pond and play an important role in the pond's ecosystem. You'll want to enjoy these breathtaking beauties every year.





- Waterlilies are available in a wide variety of stunning colors and types
- They absorb excess nutrients and aid in algae control
- Their large pads help create shade for your fish
- Waterlilies bloom all summer long
- Frogs love resting on the lilies' pads
- They're easy to grow and maintain



GETTING TO KNOW WATERLILIES

Waterlilies (genus *Nymphaea*) are popular, flowering pond plants that thrive in still or slow-moving freshwater. Their iconic rounded leaves and jewel-toned blooms are not only beautiful but provide shade that keeps fish cooler in summer and pond ecosystems balanced.



TYPES OF WATERLILIES:

Hardy Waterlilies—Cold tolerant and ideal for temperate climates, they bloom in early summer through fall and will return every year, much like the perennial plants in your garden.



Tropical Waterlilies—Need warmth to thrive; often larger and more fragrant, with blooms that can be day- or night-blooming. Wait until your pond water reaches a consistent 70-degrees Fahrenheit before adding them to your pond. Treat them like annual flowers that you replace each year.

THE ART OF WATERLILY CARE

Waterlilies are surprisingly low maintenance once established. The key is understanding their basic needs.

Full sun is a must! Six hours of direct sunlight (not dappled or filtered sunlight)

is needed to produce beautiful blooms. A few varieties can tolerate three to four hours of direct sunlight, such as Red Attraction, James Brydon, Joey Tomacek, Comanche, Arc-en-ciel, Sioux, and Helvola (a miniature waterlily).





Fertilizer is key. Waterlilies have voracious appetites, so you'll want to fertilize them with **Once-A-Year Pond Plant Fertilizer**, a time-released fertilizer designed specifically for aquatic plants.

Remove spent blooms and pads. Once a flower has faded, pinch it off as far down on its stem as you can reach. The same is true for dying lily pads. You want the flower to put all its energy into new leaves and buds.

Size matters. Make sure your lily container is at least fourteen-inches-wide and seven-inches-deep. This gives the lily enough room to spread without becoming root bound.

Water depth is important. Most varieties should be planted from 12- to 24-inches below the surface of the water. Always check the grower's plant tag for planting depth and sun requirements.



REPOTTING A WATERLILY FROM THE GARDEN CENTER

When you first bring home a potted waterlily, it's often in a small temporary container. If you keep it in this container, your waterlily won't grow and bloom to its full potential. Repotting it properly is essential for long-term health and flowering and provides amazing results.

Supplies You'll Need:

- Aquatic planting container such as the [Aquatic Lily Planter](#) or [Heavy-Duty Aquatic Plant Pots](#)
- [Pond Plant Potting Media](#)
- [Once-A-Year Pond Plant Fertilizer](#)
- Pea gravel or small river rocks



STEP-BY-STEP WATERLILY REPOTTING GUIDE:

1. Choose a wide, shallow potting container.
2. Add a one- to two-inch layer of Pond Plant Potting Media to the bottom of the container.



3. Sprinkle granular Once-A-Year Pond Plant Fertilizer over the layer of soil following the package directions.



4. Carefully remove the lily from the grower's pot and place the lily in the Aquascape Lily Planter atop the layer of soil and fertilizer.



5. Fill the remainder of the container with **Pond Plant Potting Media** which is specially formulated for pond plants. Be careful to leave the crown of the lily above the soil line.
6. Place a layer of the pea gravel or river rocks on top of the potting media to prevent the soil from leaching into the pond and to protect the root system from inquisitive koi.



7. Use the small drawstring handles on the sides of the [Aquatic Lily Planter](#) or the handles on the [Heavy-Duty Aquatic Plant Pots](#) to slowly lower your waterlily into the pond at a slight angle, allowing any trapped air to escape.
8. Place your lily at the appropriate pond depth found on your waterlily's plant tag.

Watch [our video](#) to see planting steps.

PLANTING BARE ROOT WATERLILIES



Photo by [Aquatic Oasis Lilies](#)

If you purchased your waterlily online, chances are you ordered a bare root lily. The planting instructions are similar to an already potted waterlily, with a slight variation.

Plant the waterlily in an aquatic planter approximately 14" x 7" or larger in size. Fill the bottom of the lily planter about 1/4 with [Pond Plant Potting Media](#). Sprinkle the top of the soil with [Once-A-Year Pond Plant Fertilizer](#), following the suggested amount on the packaging.

Add another layer of soil over the fertilizer.

Then, place the waterlily rhizome at a slight angle (about 45-degrees) with the cut end deeper in the soil and placed at the edge of the pot, with the growing tip projecting 3/4" above the surface of the soil.

Waterlily rhizomes grow horizontally which is why you want to place the cut end at the edge of the planter.

You'll then want to cover the top of the soil with large flat rocks, so the soil

doesn't escape in to the water once you set the aquatic planter into your pond or decorative container. Layer the rock or gravel about 1/2" thick. It's helpful if you use black or dark gravel so that it's not easily visible in the water. Now that your waterlily is properly planted in its aquatic planter, you're ready to place it into the pond.



SEASONAL WATERLILY CARE

Just like your garden plants and flowers, caring for waterlilies changes a bit for each season.



Spring: Trim old growth on existing waterlilies, divide and repot if needed, and add Once-A-Year Pond Plant Fertilizer Capsules if not repotting.

Summer: Peak bloom time—remove faded flowers and yellowing leaves. You can also remove healthy lily pads if your pond is getting overcrowded.



Fall: Cut back foliage to approximately two inches above the plant crown after the first frost for hardy varieties.

Winter: Hardy lilies can overwinter submerged in a deep part of your pond while tropicals can be disposed of in northern climates.

With just a little attention, waterlilies will reward you with a season-long display of stunning color and form. Whether you're just beginning your water gardening journey or deepening your relationship with these timeless plants, repotting and caring for your waterlilies is a simple and highly satisfying pleasure.



DON'T HAVE A POND? NO PROBLEM!

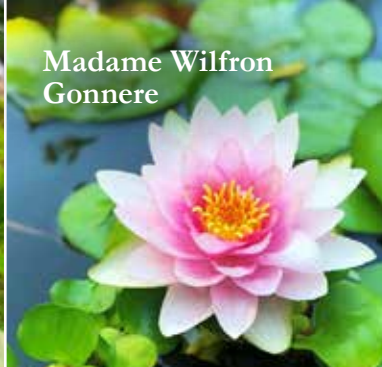
These gorgeous flowers can thrive beautifully in containers, too. Follow the repotting instructions and place the planted lily container inside a watertight vessel and fill with water. Choose a decorative container specifically designed for container water gardening such as a [Fountain Bowl](#) or [AquaGarden Mini Pond Kit](#). That way, there's no hole to fill in the bottom of the decorative container and you don't have to seal the insides to eliminate seepage. Choose a container at least 12 to 15" deep with a diameter of 24 to 36".



[Watch our video](#) to see how easy it is
to plant a waterlily in a container!



Helvola



Madame Wilfron
Gonnere



Detective Erika

FAVORITE WATERLILIES:
Editor's Pick



Red Attraction



Paranee



Pink Grapefruit

Puttaraksa



Turtle Island
Fay McDonald



Wanvisa



Antares
Tropical



Trudy Slocum
Tropical



WATCH US ON YOUTUBE

Aquascape offers four YouTube channels to inspire and educate you on all things water gardening! Each Aquascape video channel serves a specific purpose to help guide water garden enthusiasts on their journey.

[Greg Wittstock, The Pond Guy](#)

I'm Greg Wittstock, The Pond Guy. A passionate pond hobbyist for 35 years, I established Aquascape, Inc. in 1991. Follow along as I meet incredible people, view beautiful water features, and share what it means to be Living the Aquascape Lifestyle®!

[Ed The Pond Professor](#)

Friends refer to me as “The Pond Professor” because I love to talk about the science behind ponds, waterfalls, and the environment. Subscribe to my channel and follow along as I share step-by-step instructions on how and why I build ecosystem ponds and water features the Aquascape way.



TEAM Aquascape

TEAM Aquascape features a first-hand look at Aquascape water feature installations as told by members of the Aquascape Construction team. Join us for informative vlogs that share a behind-the-scenes look at life as pond and waterfall builders in the Chicagoland area.

AquascapePonds

Find out everything you need to know about water gardening, and ecosystem ponds at [aquascapeinc.com](https://www.aquascapeinc.com). We're the leading water garden features manufacturer and resource in North America.

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

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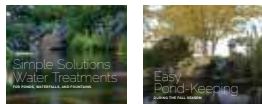
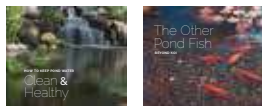
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