

# PLANTING WATER GARDENS

Be sure to keep your water garden plants wet at all times - do not allow to dry out!

Choose a planting container. Plastic tubs, plastic pots, plastic baskets, or pulp planters work well. Choose the correct size for the plant you are planting. Water lilies require at least 10 or more quarts and do best with a plastic basket.

Line the container with burlap or 2 ply newspaper if the container has holes.

Fill the container with a heavy garden or field soil. Do not use potting mixes. Make sure the soil is free of pesticides.

Insert fertilizer pellets in the bottom portion of the planting container.

**Water lilies** require one per 8 quarts of soil.

**Bog plants** require one per 11 quarts of soil.

Plant the tuber or plant.

**Hardy water lilies** should be planted when the daytime temperatures are 60 degrees or above. The crown should be above the sand or soil line. They should be planted against the side of the container at a 45-degree angle.

**Tropical water lilies** should be planted when the water is at least 70 degrees. This is probably early June. Plant the lily in the center of the pot with the crown above the sand and soil line.

**Oxygenating plants** are not planted in soil. They are placed in bunches of up to 6 stems in a pot of sand or pea gravel. Place the bunch in the center of the pot and cover up to 1/3 of the plant with the sand or pea gravel.

Cover the surface of the planter boxes with 1/2" of sand or pea gravel. This will help to keep the soil in place and prevent the water from becoming muddy.

Place the planters into the pond at the proper depth. Overturned pots may be used to raise plants to the proper height.

**Water lilies** - 6-18" water over the top of the soil, the deepest part of the pool.

**Bog plants** - 3-6" water over the top of the soil, on the planting ledge.

**Oxygenating plants** - submerged up to 30" below the surface of the pool. If the pool is out of balance and green, then lift to 6" below the surface, then lower as the water clears.

Fertilize with planting pellets pushed into the lower portion of the planting container. A broom handle is useful to push a hole, then insert the tablet and cover over with soil and sand or gravel layer. Fertilize lilies monthly, other aquatics every other month. Pellets are best to use. You do not want to use a granular or liquid fertilizer that will feed the algae in the pond.

**Consult one of our Green View associates or Illinois Certified Nursery Professionals for more information on selecting plants or planting your water garden.**