some plants, especially those that resent excess moisture. Chlorinated water burns foliage on many plants. Water sitting on foliage can cause scorching in sunny weather, or promote fungal diseases in humid conditions.

The roots of some plants can find their way into pipe work and even damage pool or pond walls. Avoid plants such as figs (ficus), bamboo, willows and others with vigorous root systems. Water splashing from fountains or waterfalls can create boggy spots on the ground. These need to be planted with bog-loving plants.

Water is normally associated with lush growth and lush plants certainly look best beside water. Remember though that many lush plants, including most ferns, also prefer shade.

Avoid arid climate plants such as cacti and desert plants. They can quickly rot in saturated conditions.

Landscapers often build shallow ponds or lakes which can become silted up or overgrown with weeds soon after establishment. These problems can be greatly reduced by making your pond deeper. Weeds don't grow as well in deep water and there is greater movement of water which allows the water to flow out one end and be recycled back into the other end.

Bear in mind that ponds do need to be cleaned out every so often. Excessive plant growth should be removed – compost it and return to the garden. Small ponds should be drained completely from time to time, cleaned thoroughly (avoid poisonous chemical detergents) and refilled. Fish and water plants can be put in tubs or buckets for a few hours, while this is done.

If you want to control the growth of your plants in a pond, placing pots or large trays underwater can be a good way of doing this. In this case, it is essential to avoid soil from escaping from the bottom, so the use of pots or trays without holes or solid-bottom containers would be an ideal choice. Position the pots on pond ledges beneath the surface, or on raised platforms of bricks, so they sit at the desired height.

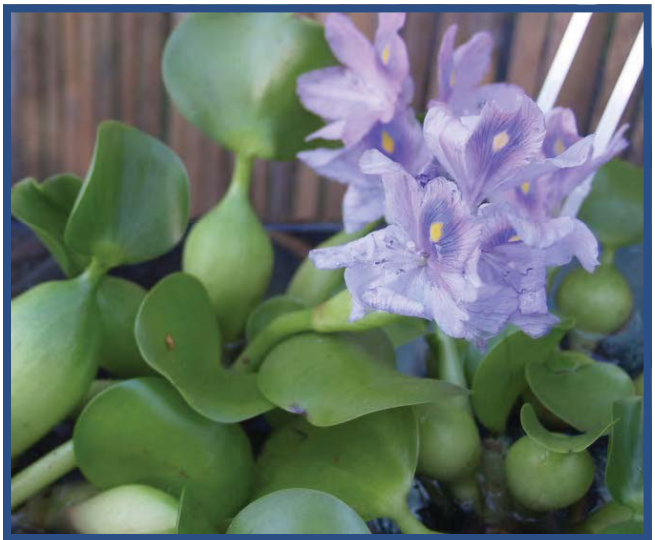
Dormant *Nymphaea* 'Water Lilies'

Nymphaea caerulea

TYPES OF WATER PLANTS

WATER PLANTS AT A GLANCE

PLANT	WATER DEPTH Optimum	WATER DEPTH Maximum	GROWTH	HEIGHT Above Water
Acorus calamus (Flag)	12cm	50cm	Emergent	
Alisma plantago-aquatica	10cm	1.5m	Emergent	
Azolla sp.			Free floating	
Calocasia esculenta	30cm	70cm	Emergent	1.5m
Cyperus sp. (Sedge)	10cm	40cm	Emergent	0.2-2m
Eleocharis dulcis	10cm	50cm	Emergent	1m
Elodea canadensis	1-2m	3m	Submerged	
Equisetum sp. (Horsetail)	10cm	25cm	Emergent	60cm
Glyceria maxima (Reed)	10cm	2m	Emergent	
Iris pseudacorus (Flag)	9cm	50cm	Emergent	
Lemna sp. (Duckweed)			Free floating	
Marsilea sp. (Nardoo)	20cm	60cm	Floating	
Mentha aquatica	2cm	40cm	Emergent	
Myriophyllum sp. (Milfoil)	10cm	60cm	Submerged	
Nymphaea sp. (Waterlily)	30cm	60cm	Floating	
Nymphoides (Marshwort)	2cm	10cm	Emergent	To 1.5m
Phragmites communis	12cm	1m	Emergent	3m
Vallisneria sp. (Eel grass)	20cm	2m	Submerged	



Eichornia crassipes Water Hyacinth

A number of types of water plant are suited to gardens ponds. These include:

Emergent plants

These have roots which grow in the mud below the water, and their foliage grows above the water.

Calocasia esculenta Black Magic

Iris laevigata

Cyperus papyrus

Cyperus alternifolius var albovariegatus

Cyperus involucratus

Nymphaea Colorado

Floating

These plants have leaves which float on surface of the water but the plants are anchored in the mud below.

One of the best examples is the waterlilies. These are a great choice for a pond. They are easy to grow, are available with a large variety of flower colours, and many are able to flower and thrive throughout a long seasonal period. They are also able to tolerate a wide range of temperatures.

Waterlilies are heavy feeders although not too fastidious with their nutritional needs and so they will grow in most types of soils, including clay. It is best to plant waterlilies in pots to start with and let them grow free at a later stage. It is important to keep the required planting depths in mind for this type of plant, as they will have different needs

depending on the variety (species). Different species also have different ideal climatic needs, for instance some are suitable to temperate conditions whereas others prefer tropical climates.

Tropical waterlilies need more time to re-establish themselves in pots, so they prefer shallower water to start off with before being shifted any deeper.

Victoria amazonica

Free Floating

These plants float freely on the surface, with roots dangling loose (unanchored) in the water.

Free-floating Water lettuce

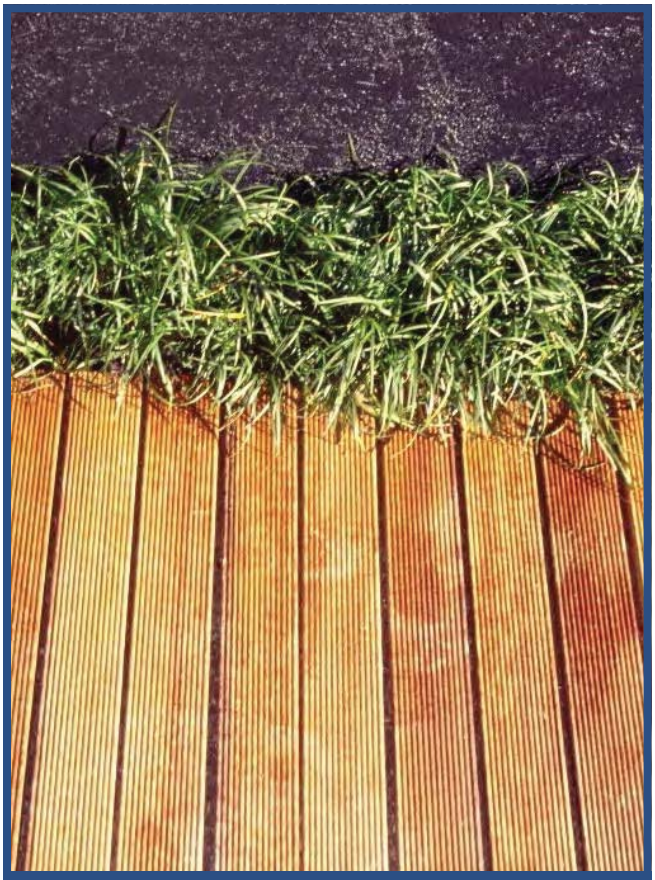
Submerged

In these types, the entire plant grows under water.

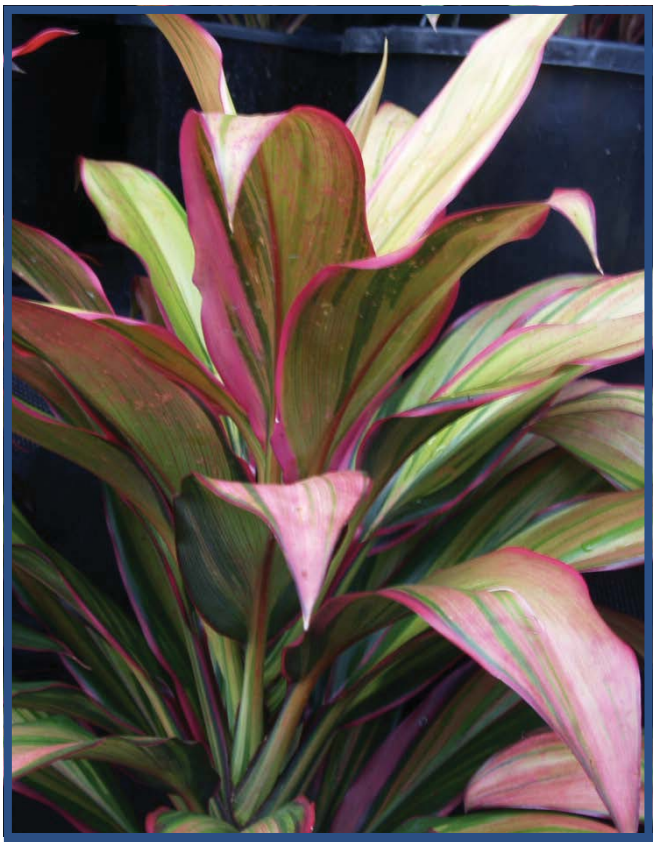
PLANTS THAT WITHSTAND CHLORINE

Dealing with high chlorine levels can be of particular concern around swimming pools. Chlorine does not naturally occur in nature, but is more commonly found as chloride which is found in high quantities in soils as salts, particularly sodium chloride. As such, salt-tolerant plants tend to be the ones best suited to pots or beds adjacent to pools where they may get frequently splashed with water.

Also, plants with waxy, or glossy, leaves tend to have greater protection against water sitting on their foliage. Many ornamental grasses are also salt tolerant and can look fantastic in pots next to a pool.



Mondo grass



Cordyline Carmen

Trachelospermum jasminoides
Chinese Star Jasmine

RE-POTTING AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER PLANTS

Those water plants which you have kept in pots, like any other potted plants, will need re-potting from time to time as they become root bound. This is a time when you can divide them to create more plants. Most can be divided throughout the year except over late autumn and winter. The best time to re-pot many is in the spring, though bulbs like Iris are best re-potted towards the end of summer after they have finished flowering and energy has been stored in the bulb.

Iris ensata