

## We're Here to Help!

*Water gardens appeal to both our sense of sight and our sense of hearing.*

*Water gardening can be as simple as filling a decorative container with water, adding a pump and placing a selection of water plants within it. On the other end of the spectrum is a full blown pond.*

*Whichever type of water gardener you are, we've got plants and pond supplies for you during the growing season.*



Open Year-Round  
7 days a week

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
80918 \* 574-8058

[www.phelangardens.com](http://www.phelangardens.com)

- \*local gardening information
- \*upcoming classes & events
- \*what's new at Phelan Gardens

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## Water Garden Plants



**Phelan Gardens**

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## Helpful Hints

There are four main functions that individual pond plants contribute to help create balance in a water garden.

- 1) release oxygen in the water
- 2) absorb pollutants
- 3) help keep water temperature cool
- 4) absorb excess nutrients

Listed below are the plants we typically offer.



## Deep Water Plants

These are submerged plants with the growing point and roots below the surface. Leaves remain on the surface and flowers, on or above the surface

- Lotus
- Cypress Papyrus
- Hardy Water Lilies (Nymphaea)

Hardy lilies are perennial plants that will bloom year after year. The flowers come in shades of pink, white, and yellow. The floating foliage of lilies helps reduce the abundance of algae. When resting at the bottom of the pond, they will survive harsh winters under a foot of ice as long as their roots do not freeze.

## Floating Plants

Water gardens should be situated in full sun for best plant performance. But, sunlight promotes the growth of algae. Floating plants are beneficial because they provide shade directly on the water surface which discourages algae growth. These easy plants simply float on the water's surface, roots submerged with no soil content needed. They tend to be lush and prolific and also help keep the water temperature cool which helps the water retain oxygen.

- Frogbit (Hydrocharis)
- Water Hyacinth (Eichornia)
- Water Lettuce (Pistia)
- Parrot's Feather (Myriophyllum)

## Marginal Plants

These types of plants border a water garden's inner perimeter, creating a natural border. Roots are submerged but leaves and flowers are clearly above the surface. Marginals assist the garden's balance by absorbing heavy metals and other pollutants. They also absorb nutrients from the water, thereby preventing algae growth. Most will only tolerate being submerged 1"-2" below the surface.

- Arrowhead (Sagittaria)
- Cattail (Typha)  
(dwarf and variegated)
- Chameleon (Houttuynia)
- Corkscrew Rush (Juncus)
- Dwarf Bamboo (Dulichium)
- Dwarf Papyrus (Papyrus)
- Iris –Red, White, Yellow (Iris)
- Lizard's Tail (Saururus)
- Marsh Marigold (Caltha)

- Miniature Spearwort (Ranunculus)
- Pennywort (Hydrocotyle)
- Primrose Creeper (Ludwigia)
- Purple Pickerel Rush (Pontederia)
- Spike Rush (Eleocharis)
- Sweetflag (Acorus)
- Taro (Colocasia)
- Underwater Grass (Glyceria)
- Watercress (Nasturtium)
- Water Clover (Marsilea)
- Water Plantains (Alisma)
- Water Poppy (Hydrocleys)
- Variegated Water Celery (Oenanthe)
- Zebra Rush (Scirpus)

## Keeping it Clean:

A water garden should not be as clear as a swimming pool but instead, should be clear enough to see the bottom. In the beginning, expect the water to change from green to clear, but have some green slime on the sides. This is string algae which provides 60% of the oxygen in the water. It may take an entire season for a water garden to become balanced. In the meantime, foam on the surface with a sulfur smell is natural. In the cool weather of spring and fall, the garden may have an algae bloom making it look like pea soup. This can be resolved by adding bacteria that eats excessive nutrients that cause algae bloom.

*Note: Water gardens of any size, though beautiful, can breed mosquitoes. We recommend you periodically treat your water with Mosquito Bits/Dunks since mosquitoes in Colorado can carry West Nile Virus.*