



Overwintering Care of Aquatic Plants

Much like a perennial garden, certain steps must be taken to put the plants in the water garden to bed for the winter. The necessary care should be taken by the later part of the fall, before the deep freeze of winter begins, to ensure the survival of the pond's aquatic plants. The following instructions are for plants with its aquatic plants in containers. If the plants are planted directly into the pond (planting pockets), simply follow the directions for proper cutting back of these aquatics.

Water lilies (*Nymphae*) - Hardy varieties...

After the lilies begin to go into dormancy, when the pads have mostly passed, cut back the foliage about 1" above the crown. Leave in the deeper section of the pond.

Water lilies (*Nymphae*) – Tropical varieties...

Although tropical water lilies can be over wintered, many pond keepers treat these plants as annuals, discarding them at the end of the season.

For those up to the challenge of Overwintering: Before the hard freeze and after the lily has begun to go dormant, remove the tubers from the water and soil. Store in a bucket of damp sand in a cool dark location (55 degrees F), covering the bucket with plastic wrap with holes cut into it. Replant in an aquatic media in the spring.

Marginal/ Bog Plants – Hardy varieties...

After the plants have gone dormant, cut back the foliage to just above the pot (1-2" above the soil level). Place plants into the deeper sections of the pond.

Please Note: Grasses, cattails and rushes can be cut back in the spring if desired, thus allowing the plants to provide some winter beauty.

Marginal/ Bog Plants – Tropical varieties...

Many of these pants can be over wintered indoors in a sunny location. Remove plants before the first hard frost, cut back any excessive growth extending from the bottom of the pot. Place in a shallow tray of water, ensuring that the tray remain full throughout the winter. If not overwintering, be sure to remove all plants once they have passed to prevent organic build-up in the water.

Lotus (*Nelumbo*)...

DO NOT CUT BACK! Lower the pot into the deepest point once the plant has gone dormant. If cleaning up the old foliage is desired, gently tug on each stock. Only the stocks that remove with little, or no, resistance are safe to remove.

Please Note: Due to the fact that lotus breathe through the leaf and stock, failure to follow the directions when cleaning of foliage can drown the tuber.

Floating Aquatics...

Although water hyacinths and lettuce can be over wintered indoors, many pond keepers treat these plants as annuals and discard them following the first frost.

Submerged Aquatics (oxygenators)...

Cut back, if necessary, to control growth and leave in deeper water.

